THE HONOUR OF CHIVALRY:

Or, The Famous and Delectable HISTORY OF *DON BELLIANIS* of *GREECE*.

CONTINUING

As well the valiant Exploits of that Magnanimous and Heroick Prince, Son to the Emperor *Don Bellanio* of *Greece*; as also the Wars between him and the Souldan of *PERSIA*.

Wherein is likewise described the strange and dangerous Adventures that befel him in the prosecution of his love towards the Princess *Florisbella*, Daughter to the Souldan of *Babylon*: His Releasing of her Father the Souldan from a strange Enchantment, and vanquishing the Emperor of *Trebizond*.

The Second Part.

Now newly Written in English by *F. K.*

Licensed and Entred, according to Order.

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To the Reader.

THis Second Part having already received a very favourable acceptation in a former Impreſſion; I ſhall not need to enlarge my ſelf in an Epiſtle, and therefore I onely tell you that I have now proſecuted the Story in a third and laſt Part, and hope it will be to your content, and that is the utmoſt ambition of

Your Friend and Servant,

Fran. Kirkman.

THE SECOND PART OF DON BELLIANIS OF GREECE: OR, *The Honor of Chivalry,*

Continuing the valiant Expliots of that Heroick Prince, Son unto the Emperor *Don Bellaneo* of *Greece*

CHAP. I.

How the City of *Bollera* being straitly besieged by the Souldan was well near taken, but that it was rescued by *Gorino* Brother to the Duke *Alfiron*, and the *Knight of the Basilisks* and his Companions.

IT is now full time to return to the City of Bollera, where we left the thrice renowned and most magnificent Emperor Don Bellaneo, in company of so many valiant and renowned Knights and great Personages, who were straitly besieged by the Souldan of Persia, and his son Perianeo Knight of the Images. After the last Battel was ended, which is largely described in the 59th Chapter of the First Part of this excellent History, the Emperor commanded that a strict and just account should be taken of how many Fighting men were left in the City and Trenches; which command being put in execution by Duke Alfiron and Sabian of Trebanto, who were very vigilant and careful therein: and after they had taken a just account thereof, they delivered it to Don Bellaneo, whereby they found that there was not above

fifty thousand men both in the City and Trenches, and that they had lost ten thousand men: for the Duke brought twenty thousand men with him from Persepolis, and there was within the City besides forty thousand fighting men: when as on the other side the Soudan had at least four hundred thousand fighting men, besides above fifty thousand which were slain in the last Battel, and the Soudans men daily increased, and many good and hardy Knights and Giants from all parts of the Empire of Persia came in daily to them at the brute of these Wars, and for the love that they bore to their magnanimous and redoubted Prince Perianeo Knight of the Imeges, for whose return there was great Joy throughout all those Countreys.

On the other side, great was the grief and sorrow of the most peerless Princess Persiana, (who was married to the Duke Alfiron, as is before recounted) and for whose sake alone all these Wars were begun, and in whose Quarrel many redoubted Knights had lost their lives. As much troubled was the beauteous Princess Aurora, for the absence of Don Bellianis the Knight of The Golden Image, and Don Brianel, whose success in the winning of her kingdom, and other strange Adventures she had not yet heard of. But all these sorrows were somewhat mitigated, in that the City was so well guarded by Don Bellaneo Knight of The Imperial Crowns, and the rest of those invincible Princes and Knights.

The Prince Perianeo being greatly desirous to put an end to these Wars, and being vexed that one City manned with so few Knights should be able to withstand so mighty an Army as he had under his command, desired of his Father to give him leave to assault the Place, and in order thereunto one morning very early, two hours before the Sun-rising, he being before provided of all things necessary for so great an Attempt, took part of the Army, which he devided into four parts, one Squadron of fifty thousand men he gave to be commanded by Caroliano another of fifty thousand men was commanded by Borald, the third of fifty thousand men by Don Ferm ſel, and the last he commanded himself, being fifty thousand well resolved Knights, and forty Giants. In this manner, with the greatest silence that could be,

be, they approached the Out-works of the Enemy, which was neer half a league from the City: The defendants, who kept an excellent order in their Camp, were ready in short time to receive them, being commanded by the Kings of Armenia and Tesifance, who hearing of the approaches of the Enemies, presently caused the Clarions and Trumpets to be sounded, and buckling on their Armor went to receive them: Carolano approaching the Tents of the Defendants, couched his Lance, and furiously unhorsed twenty or thirty Knights before he met with any that could withstand him; but the King of Armenia seeing him do so much mischief, and had so weak resistance, without any Lance drew his sword, and cut the Lance of his enemy in two pieces, and then redoubling his blow made him bow his body to his horse neck: but he soon recollecting his spirits drew his sword, and began a terrible Fight: By this time they in the City having taken the Alarum, issued out under the Conduct of the Emperor and the Duke Alfiron, leaving onely a Guard of five thousand men to defend the City and the Ladies that were therein: but when they came near to the Camp, they met their own Soldiers flying for safety into the City with all the speed they could, being pursued by their enemies who came so powerfully upon them: whereupon the Emperor, Duke Alfiron, and the rest were much dismayed, however encouraging them in the best manner they could, they caused them to return and face their enemies, and then the fight began to be very hot and bloody, Don Bellaneo couching his Lance unhorsed twenty Knights before he brake it, and then taking another, ran so fiercely on into his enemies ranks, that they all made way until he met with Boraldo, with whom he encountred so fiercely, that breaking his Lance into shivers, he caused him to measure his length on the earth, and so passed on, drawing his sword and killing many of his enemies: thus was the fight again renewed, and his forces seeing the undauntedness of his courage, followed him so vigorously, that like a torrent he bore down all before him, till at length he met with Persaneo, who then came up with all his Force to renew the Battel: then did the good Emperor bestir himself, and indeed he had great need, for he was encompassed with six Giants, besides the Knight of

the Images, all which did their uttermoſt endeavors to aſſail him: ſome of their blows he received on his ſhield, and others were delivered with ſuch puiſſance on his helmet, that he was enforced to hold about his horſes neck to keep him from falling; but he ſoon revenged himſelf of them, for like a raged Lion he cut off the arm of one of the Giants, and another he cut off one ſide of his face, ſo that now he was delivered from two of his enemies, but the Prince Perianeo knowing him by his Arms to be the only conſiderable Adverſary he had, deſired the other four Giants to leave him alone with him, thinking himſelf to to overcome him that he might gain the more honor: then began one of the moſt terrible Fights between theſe two undaunted Warriers that was ever heard of, both of them reſolving to do their utmoſt devoirs, and they behaved themſelves ſo fiercely, that as well many other Knights, as the four Giants, ſtood ſtill to behold that incomparable Combate. During this time, in all other places the Fight was continued with much vigor, and the brave Knights Alfiron, Contumeliano, and Floriſpiano performed wonders: the valiant King Armenia was all this while ingaged in Combate with Caroliano, where he gave and received many wounds, and their Fight continued ſo long, that both their horſes were ſlain, and the King of Armenia was in a great jeopardy: for many of the Knights of Caroliano's Squadron (ſeeing their Commander likely to be overcome by the King of Armenia) did violently aſſault him, and brought him to great extremity, having wounded him in many places, & he had very nigh fainted with his great loſs of blood, when the King of Teſifante accompanied with 500 Kts. came to his reſcue, & again mounted him on the horſe of one of the knights that he had ſlain.

Thus the Battel continued indifferent on both ſides, till Boraldo and Don Fermoſel arrived with their ſeveral Squadrons of fifty thouſand men a piece, brake through the rancks of their enemies, and attempted to force their way into the City; which they endeavored by all means poſſible to effect, for they brought Scaling Ladders, and all other inſtruments of War, fitting to aſſault it: which when Duke Alfiron, and the reſt of the Knights heard, they immediately retreated into the City, knowing that it was but weakly manned, and not able long to

reſiſt

resist the furious assaults that would be made.

Thus the Emperor (who as I told you before was ingaged in a bloody Fight with the Knight of the Images) was forced to leave the Combate unfinished, to retire to the City to rescue it, which he heard was well nigh taken: being to one near the gates of the City, he saw that the enemy had gotten possession of part of the wall, and likewise he saw the Knight of the Images coming behind him with all his Forces, wherefore he seeing the extreamity of the business hasted into the City, and slow in the rear of all his Forces, and was the last man that entred, holding a continual Fight with his enemies, till he saw all his own Forces were within the walls, and then he himself entred, not permitting any of his enemies Forces to enter with him, which they by all means attempted to do: so soon as he was entred, and the gate strongly fastned, he repaired to that part of the wall which he saw was possessed by the enemy, and mounting thereon, being followed by several valiant Knights, soon tumbled the enemies from the wall, and kept the possession thereof; but all this, and what ever else they could do, did not hinder the enemy from getting the possession of the wall in many places, which they at last kept in despight of all the Forces of the City, and were ready to descend the wall and enter the City, when they heard a great noise of Trumpets and Clarions, and a great company of armed Knights behind them, who gave a great assault to those of their Forces that were below; at which they were greatly astonished, and seing them come forward with a great deal of impetuosity and destruction of many of their Forces, the chief Commander who had gotten the possession of the wall, came down to help their companions, and the rest, who still remained on the wall, were soon forced from thence, and thrown headlong down, where they ended their lives.

Thus was the Battel again revived, and many of the Soudans Knights and Gyants lost their lives, by the invincible arms of four or five Knights, who came in company of the late Forces that came to relieve the City: but among the rest, there was one Knight who was armed with an armor garnished with Basilisks, that put all men to amaze, for they rather judged him to be a raging Tyger, or hungry Lion, then any mortal Knight, for in a short time he dismounted above fifty Knights,

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and killed four Giants, and yet he was not at all wearied, but still bestowed such deadly strokes amongst the Souldans knights, that they all fled from him as from their immediate death, till at last the two brothers, Carosiano and Boraldo, both assaulted him, and laid many weighty strokes both on his shield and helmet, but he reached out of them so great a blow, that he made him catch hold on his horses neck, to save himself from falling, and then being much enraged gave the other such a thrust that he tumbled him from his horse, and so he proceeded killing and destroying all that durst withstand him. In the mean time his other four companions were not idle, for they behaved themselves with extraordinary courage. It was two hours before day, when this battel first began, and now it was about four of the clock in the afternoon, and yet it was not ended: but at last the Souldans Knights and Giants being much wearied, were about to retreat when they once more saw fresh Forces coming towards them, which was indeed commanded by the Souldan himself, who seing the Battel continue so long, and understanding by a messenger that the City was likely to be relieved, came on with all his Forces to assist his Son, whereby he might, as he hoped, put an end to this troublesom War: but he found himself to be bravely received by the Knight of the Basilisks and his companions.

When they in the City saw this, they informed the Emperor Don Bellaneo thereof, who commanded one of the Gates to be immediately opened, out of which he issued with ten thousand men, and went immediately to the place where the Knight of the Basilisks was engaged, and seing him do such wonders, and supposing him to command the rest, he said to him: Knight, since you have, though unknown, endeavored to give us so great aid, I pray let it be used to the best advantage, which will be at this time with all convenient speed, to retire into the City, else you will presently be overpowred by their great Forces, and then your assistance will be of little effect. The Knight of the Basilisks gave attention to this advice, and knowing not only the person that gave it, but that it was also very good, endeavored by his own example and actions, to retire to the City, and so he and his companions did with all their Forces, only with the loss of two thousand men which were killed in the Battel and retreat;

retreat. And the Souldan and his Son, the Knight of the Images, seeing themselves forced to retire from the City walls, by reason of the approaching of the night, which was now coming on, retired into their enemies trenches, with a resolution to abide there till they could take the City, but they were prevented, as hereafter shall be declared.

CHAP. II.

Who the *Knight of the Basilisks*, and his Companions were, and how the Siege was raised, and the Souldan and all his Forces retired to *Persepolis*.

SOone as the Knight of the Basilisks and his Companions were entred the City, the Emperor caused a strait Guard to be placed on the Walls, and then retired to the Palace, where he was welcomed by the two Princesses Persiana and Aurora, but greatly was the joy of all increased when the Knight of the Basilisks discovered himself to be Don Bellianis, Knight of the Golden Image, and his Companions to be his two Brothers Don Clarineo of Spain, and Don Lucidamore of Thessaly, and his Cousin Don Brianel of Macedon: but there was one Knight who continued still unknown to all but the Duke Alfiron, who being unarmed, knew him to be his brother Don Gorino; and indeed to him they were very much ingaged for his help and assistance, for he was not only a good Knight himself, but he had brought twenty thousand valiant Knights and Soldiers with him, to aid his Brother: and the Knight of the Basilisks and his Companions, overtaking him in their return from Antioch, and understanding that his design was only to relieve the City of Bollera and their Journey being intended for the same place, they discovered themselves to him to be friends to his Brother the Duke Alfiron, and thereupon they joyned themselves together, and arrived at the City in so fortunate a time, that had they not come as they did, the City must needs have been taken by the Enemies, by reason of their great forces, and the small power that was within to oppose them: but

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their arrival in so fortunate a time, caused the Soudan to lose his design, and made him retreat, as we have before told you, with the loss of one hundred thousand men, and many valiant Knights and Giants. But however he was resolved not to leave the City walls, till he had not only taken it, but also destroyed it and razed it to the ground, in revenge to the Injuries he had received of Duke Alfiron and his Companions But here we will leave him without the City, and return to our Champions within; who little feared him and all his Forces.

The Princess Aurora being informed of the return of Don Brianel, sent for him to give her an account of his adventures in Antioch, and it was not long ere he, accompanied with his two Companions, Don Clarineo and Don Lucidamore, came into her presence, and falling on his knees to kiss her hand, she refused to grant it, but raised him and his Companions from the ground with much freedom and joy, he being somwhat emboldned by her freedom, did arise and salute her, which she courteously received: and then she seating her self in her Chair, caused other seats to be brought for Don Brianel and his Companions: where they being seated, and Don Brianel knowing for what cause he was sent for, immediately declared unto her the good success of his Embassie, and how that by the assistance of those two Knights there present, and of their brother Don Bellianis, as also by the advice and help of Palineo and Damartino, he had slain the Usurping King Tramolcano and the Count Garino, and reduced the Kingdom to her obedience, and that there was nothing now wanting but her presence to make her subjects happy, and that they were all ready to obey her in every thing, and in the mean time till she could come thither, they had sworn Oaths of Allegiance to Damartino, according to her orders and command.

This news greatly contented the Princess, and she returned many thanks to Don Brianel and his Companions, after which they departed from her presence, and went to the place where the Emperor, his Son, and Duke Alfiron, with the rest of the Commanders, were in Counsel about what was necessary to be done, as well for the defence of themselves, as for the offending

sending of their enemies, and there it was concluded to send Don Clarineo to Persepolis, to attend the landing of two hundred thousand men, who were come from Greece with the Emperor, and gave him orders that he should conduct these Forces directly to Persepolis to assault it. that thereby the Soulden hearing thereof, might be enforced to withdraw his Forces to aid that City, and so they should be left free. This determination was immediately put in execution, and Don Clarineo in company of fifty Knights, presently departed, and travelled so long that night, that the next morning they arrived within two leagues of Persepolis, and then they took another way, and went somewhat about, that they might travel undiscovered, and so they did till they arrived at the Sea-side, where they immediately embarqued themselves, and ranging about the Sea for some time, they at last discovered the Navy, and approaching to them, went aboard the Admiral, and immediately calling the principal of the Captains and other Commanders to come aboard, he declared the will of the Emperor, to which they all promised ready obedience, and thereupon they presently set sayl for Persepolis: and they had not sayled six hours before they discovered the shore, where they landed without any interruption, and leaving a sufficient company to guard the Navy, they immediately marched on to Persepolis, where they arriving endeavored to enter, but were strongly repulsed by the Souldans Forces, and the place being very well fortified, they were forced to retire, and fortifie themselves in Trenches near the City, till they had further orders from the Emperor.

The City of Persepolis being thus assaulted, some of the Forces were immediately to the Souldans Camp before Bolera, to certifie him thereof, where they arrived one morning early, just as the Souldan and his Son with all their Forces, were going to assault the City: but they were much astonished with this news, and did greatly wonder from whence all those Forces should arrive, however commanding the Messengers to silence, they resolved to give the onset to the City before they departed, and thereupon went forwards with all their accoutrements of War. Perianeo Knight of the Images being extraordinarily enraged, immediately got a Ladder and mounted

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the wall, where he soon either cut in pieces, or tumbled down all such as were placed there to oppose him, and was ready to have delivered the wall and entred the City, when the Emperor himself, and several other valiant Knights in his company, came and resisted him: many fierce and hardy blows were given and received on both sides, for they had both an implacable hatred to each other, and the Emperor knowing that if he could vanquish that enemy, he should easily force the rest to retire, laid mighty strokes on the Knight of the Images, so that in the end he put him quite out of breath, and inforced him to retire from the wall in despite of all the resistance he could possibly make: all this while the rest of the Knights and Giants on both sides, were not idle, but did their uttermost endeavours, the one to possess, and the other to defend the wall, which indeed was so well guarded by so many valiant and magnanimous Knights, that indeed the flower of all Chivalry was there present, and therefore the great multitude encompassed the City, was in a manner filled with the blood and dead bodies of the slaughters: which the Soudan perceiving, and knowing that his presence was required, and indeed more needful in another place, he caused his Forces to retreat, which he could hardly effect, in regard of the desperateness of the Fight in all places, at last he withdrew his Forces, and finding that he had gained nothing, but that this onset had cost him the loss of fifty thousand men, he resolved to depart that night, and retire to Persepolis.

Whilst in the City dieing their Enemies withdrawn in good order returned to their several Quarters, where they greatly rejoyced in their good fortune: The Emperor and his Son with all the rest of those courageous Knights, resolving the next day to issue out of the City, and set upon their Enemies in the open field: but when the next morning was come, and they were ready to put this their resolution in execution, they found that all their enemies were departed, having taken the benefit of the night for that purpose, wherefore they went and disarmed themselves, and then went again to counsel, where they resolved as we shall hear.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

How *Don Bellaneo* the Emperor, and the rest of the Knights and Forces followed the Souldan to *Persepolis*, and that which happened ethre.

The Emperor Don Bellaneo, and the rest of the Knights being entred into Council, it was concluded that every one should provide himself to depart from that City, and follow the Souldan: they very well knowing that the Forces of the Emperor, under the command of Don Clarineo, being arrived at Persepolis, and the Souldan being informed thereof was the cause of his so sudden departure, wherefore Don Alfiron, the Emperor Don Bellianis and the rest of the knights, went immediately to put their Forces in readiness; which when they had done, they came to the Court to the Ladies, to take their farewel of them.

The Princess Parsiana was much troubled and perplexed, that she should so sun leave her husband the Duke, and was greatly discontented that all this Mar was occasioned thorough her Marriage with the Duke, whereby the lives of so many brave Knights were put into continual jeopardy, wherefore she besought the Duke her Husband, Don Bellaneo, and his son Don Bellianis, to use their utmost endeavors to reconcile this difference between her husband and her Father, without the effusion of any more blood, which they promised to endeavor.

The Princess Aurora was likewise much troubled that her affairs was thus hindred by these Mars, but her discontent was the greater in that Don Brianel and she must part, wherefore she applyed her self to Don Bellianis, and calling him Her Deliverer, desired him to make all the haste he could possible in his return thither, that he might put her in possession of her Kingdom; which he promised to do, but she not satisfied with this, desired that some one of his campanions might be left in that City for the guard thereof. He ther supon resolved to give her all the pleasure he could, told her that he would so order it, that Don

Brianel should be left behind for that purpose, at the naming of whom he blushed, and returned him thanks therefore. So he took his leave of her, and of the two damsels that belonged to the Princess Florisbella, and departed to his Father, and the rest of the Knights, telling them what he had promised to the Princess *Antona*, and that it was necessary to leave Don Brianel for guard of the City, which was accordingly done. Thus these brave Warriors left the City in guard of Don Brianel and ten thousand men, and marched onward to Persepolis with fifty thousand men.

The Emperor and his company with easie marches, at length arrived near Persepolis, where they found Don Clarineo with all his Forces ready to receive them, who informed them, that the night before, the Soudan and his Son, with all the rest of the Army arrived there, and with the loss of many men had entred the City.

Thus these Forces being united, made a very considerable Army, and therefore Duke Alfiron did not question but he should, in short time compel the Soudan his Father in Law to consent to his Marriage, and therefore he desired that the rest of the Knights would give him leave to write to the Soudan, to know his mind whether he would be for peace or war. To which they consented, and he writ to him accordingly, and sent it by one of his Knights, who coming to the Gates of the City, was questioned what he was, and what he would have? Who replyed, That he came to speak with the Soudan from his Lord the Duke Alfiron, and the rest of the Knights in his company; whereupon the Soudan being advertised hereof, commanded that he should be brought before him, which was done accordingly, and he coming to the great Hall of the Soudans Palace, made his due reverence to him, and to his Son the Knight of the Images, and the rest of those high Personages there assembled, and delivered his Letter to the Soudan; who gave the same to his Secretary, who opening the Seal, found therein written as followeth.

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The Letter of the Duke of *Alfiron* to the Souldan of *Persia*.

MOst Mighty Sir, it is not unknown to your Highness, the great love and affection that I have for a long time bore to the most incomparable Princess *Persiana* your Daughter, and how that *I* have alwayes been ready to do all reasonable things to testifie to her my Love, and to your self my service: but so it is, that your Highness being blinded with revenge on *Don Belsiano* the Emperor of *Greece*, did decree, that whosoever should vanquish and kill the said Emperor, should not only have your Highnesses Daughter to wife, but half your Highness Dominions with her, which was proudly and indiscreetly undertaken by *Don Gallanes* of *Antioch*, who though he attempted it, could never bring the same to pass, but was forced to return to your Court, and there falsly reported that he had effected your commands, which though it was altogether untrue; yet he expected your Daughter as a Guerdon of his merit: accordingly your Highness (though much against the good will and liking of your said Daughter) caused them to be Married; but he for his other wicked doings was justly slain, and the Knight of *the Golden Image* and his companions, vindicated her credit and mine, as to your Highness is fully known: but such was the continual anger of your Highness, that contrary to the word of so great a Personage, you kept me in prison till both my self, and your Daughter were released by means of the Kings of *Armenia* and *Tessiany*, and many other Knights, who with your Daughters free consent caused us to be lawfully married, as in justice we ought, whereupon your Highness hath since still followed us, with all the violence possible, endeavouring to destroy us (but the Gods be praised) we have hitherto valiantly defended our selves from all your Forces, and question not still to do. But however our inclination to peace is such, that we humbly and heartily desire it, and that you will give us your royal word for the same, in expectation of which; or of such other answer, as you shall send, I rest

Your Son and Subject, Duke Alfiron.

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This Letter being read, the Souldan was much perplexed, that any one should in so open a manner declare his unjust actions, and charge him with unjustice; told the messenger that he might depart, and the next day he would send an answer by a messenger of his own.

The Knight being gone, the Souldan and his Son entred into consultation, what was necessary to be done, and the Knight of the Images knowing that the Emperor of Greece, and his Son Don Bellianis, and many of their kindred, were in the Camp of Duke Alfiron, for they had learned so much by some prisoners they had taken of the Emperors Army, they therefore resolved to be revenged of all their wrongs in general, and that they might the more easily bring their determination to pass, they concluded that the Knight of the Images, the two brothers Carolano and Boraldo, and Gramalis of Thrace should enter in Combate with the Emperor of Greece, his Son Don Bellianis, Duke Alfiron, and any other Knight of their Army: and in order to this their resolution, the Souldan writ a Letter, and sent it to the Camp according as he had promised.

The messenger that carried the answer of the Souldan arriving at the Camp, was conducted to the Tent of the Emperor, where he and the rest of the Commanders being assembled he delivered the Cartel to Duke Alfiron, who immediately caused the same to be opened, they read as followeth.

The Letter of the Souldan to Duke *Alfiron* and his Companions.

I Know not what reason thou hadst to contradict or hinder our will in the marriage of our Daughter to *Don Gallante*, or any other to whom it was our pleasure to bestow her, but that thou wouldest shew thy self false to our Imperial Crown and Dignity, in taking part with our greatest enemies, and those whom we have the greatest cause to hate, such as is the Emperor of *Greece* and his Son, and many of the Knights of their linage, by whose help and assistance thou hast sadly stollen away our Daughter, and dost still unjustly detain her, and with whose help thou en-

deavoreſt to deſtroy this our Empire, contrary to thy Allegiance; Therefore we let thee to underſtand that our pleaſure is, that thou either preſently ſend us our Daughter, and aſſiſt us in the deſtruction of thoſe Chriſtians our mortal enemies, or prepare thy ſelf to be chaſtiſed according to thy demerits: but if thou thy ſelf, and they are ſtill ſo hardy to reſiſt us, we have given leave to our noble Son *Periante*, our Couſins *Carolia* and *Peraldo*, and *Gramalis* of *Thrace*, to meet thee and the ſaid Emperor and his Son, and any other Knight you ſhall chooſe to mortal Combat, promiſing that our Army ſhall not, during the Combat hinder you, and we expect your performance of the ſame condition. This, if you will do, we ſhall be ready to perform to morrow before our City gates, this is all at preſent from

Your Lord, the Souldan.

Great was the amazement of the Duke Alfiron, and the Kings of Armenia and Teſſifanty, and the reſt of the Pagan Knights, when they underſtood that the Emperor of Greece, and his ſon and kinſmen, were thoſe who they had ſo long entertained amongſt them, but they were ſoon ſatisfyed when the Emperor Don Bellaneo aroſe from his ſeat, and ſpake as followeth.

KIngs of *Armenia* and *Teſſifanty*, and Duke *Alfiron*, with all the reſt of your Companions, it cannot be unknown to you how unjuſtly the Souldan your Maſter, has endeavored often times to take away my life, as the undertaking of *Don Gallaore* doth ſufficiently teſtifie, and I do not conceive but any of you being ſo wronged, would uſe his utmoſt endeavors to revenge himſelf: in order to which I came from *Conſtantinople*, accompanied with theſe Forces, but they have done little yet in proſecution of my revenge. As for my Son, he came not hither to injure the Souldan, but to do juſtice to the Princeſs of *Aurora* (who is truly Princeſs of *Antioch*) and to deſtroy that Uſurper *Don Gallante*, who uſurped the ſame. Since our arrival, many occaſions have preſented themſelves, whereby we have loſt much blood in your Cauſe, and have wronged none of you, and do

and

and do resolve still to continue constant to you, till we shall cause the Emperor to do you justice, and that shall be our satisfaction; therefore resolve your selves what Answer to return him, for I and my Son will undertake the Combat.

After the Emperor had finished his speech, the Kings of Armenia and Tessilante thanked him, and his son, and the rest of the Knights, for what they had said and done, and resolved, that since the cause at present was but to bring the Souldan to do Justice, that they would still continue with them and force him to do it, or venture their lives and fortunes in the compelling him thereto. And Duke Alfiron, who was one of the persons that was challenged, answered, that he was of the same opinion with them, and thanked the Emperor and his Son, and the rest for the assistance they had given him, and told them that he was willing to accept the Combat propounded, wherupon Contumeliano Prince of Phenicia desired that he might be the other Combatant, which was granted, and the Messenger was sent to the Souldan to signifie the same accordingly.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Combat between the Eight Knights, and of the end thereof.

NO sooner had the Golden Charioteer of Heaven set forward on his dayly journey, to illuminate the world with the refulgent Beams of his Countenance, but all our Combatants prepared themselves for the Combat. Don Bellianis of Greece, in whose heart was not only revenge but jealousie, desired that he might combat with his Rival Perianeo Knight of the Images. The good Emperor his Father resolved to try the Valor of Gramalis of Thrace, and Duke Alfiron and Contumeliano desired to undertake the two Brothers Caroliano and Boraldo.

Thus every one having made choice with whom to fight, resolved to overcome or die in the place, and they only expected the coming of the Challengers out of the City. About ten of the clock

clock before noon, the Soudan with a guard of forty thousand Knights issued out of one of the Gates with the Champions, ready for the Combat. The Soudan being seated in a place appointed for that purpose, and the Guard placed without one side of the Lists, the Challengers with the sound of Drums and Trumpets entred the same, where they had not long continued, but the Defendants likewise entred, and the Guard on their side being placed on another side of the Lists, the Soudan commanded the Signal of the fight to be given by the Trumpets, at whose sound the Knights with armed fury made against each other in such sort, that they rather seemed to many sudden flashes of lightning, breaking through the airy passage of the Heaven, than men and horse met in the midst of the field with so mighty encounters, as if so many pieces of Ordnance had been discharged. Don Bellianis thinking himself concerned more then ordinary, encountred the Knight of the Images so violently, that he caused him to lay hold on his horse neck to save himself from falling, and with the shock that he received, he lost both his Stirrops: but they both soon recovered themselves, and turning about, with a brave grace and courage drew their Swords, and gave one another such strong and mighty blows, that their pure cutting Swords soon made the blood to appear through their Armors.

The Emperor and Gramalis of Trace encountred each other so furiously, that the Emperor threw Gramalis on the ground, and disabled his horse, and received so great a shock himself that he lost both his Stirrops, but he recovered himself, and drawing his Sword went to meet his Adversary, who was coming to him on foot: which he seeing, likewise dismounted himself, and came on foot likewise valiantly to meet him: but Gramalis being more ready then the Emperor, gave him so mighty a blow on the Helmet, that it astonished him, which made his rage to kindle in his breast, that the very fire sparkled in his eyes, and like a hot chafed Boar or hungry Lyon bent to his prey, wounded Gramalis that had struck him with his puissant a blow on the Helmet, that he cut it in two as if it had been of Pasteboard, sorely wounding his head, resting so astonished, that he knew not whether he was alive or dead. Gramalis in short time recovered himself, and seeing what danger he was in by reason of one

blow received from his enemy, was greatly abashed, so that covering himself with his shield, he gave the Emperor many wounds: which he seeing, and resolving to be revenged of, gave his enemy so great a blow on the shield, that he cut it in two pieces, and wounded him so sorely on the head and arm, that he in short time fell to the ground: which the Emperor seeing he left him, and went to Duke Alfiron who wanted his assistance.

Alfiron and Contumeliano encountring the two Brothers, gave to each other so marvellous encounters, that they all measured their lengths on the earth: but like valiant Knights they soon got on their feet and began an excellent Combat, which continued a long time without any great advantage: but in the end Carolino, with whom Alfiron fought, gave him so great a blow on the head, that he cut the laces of his helmet, and somewhat wounded his head; but Alfiron resolving to revenge himself, gave Caroliano so mighty a blow on the helmet, that it much astonished him, and passing from thence wounded his shoulder very sorely: but the blow having found so great resistance, his sword brake in two pieces; whereupon Caroliano though sorely wounded, seeing his Adversary without helmet or sword, went forward with a resolution that one blow should put an end to the Combat: but just as he went to perform what he intended, the Emperor met him and rescued Alfiron, who seeing the desperateness of his condition, being without a sword espied that of Gramalis lying by him, suddenly took it up, and went to receive his enemy, who was now fighting with the Emperor. Contumeliano and his enemy were not idle, but did their utmost devoirs like good Knights, to endanger each other, so that the ground where they stood was dyed with the blood that came from the great number of wounds they received.

This battel had continued eight hours, and neither of the two Knights, Don Bellianis nor Perianeo, shewed any kind of weariness, and though they were much wounded, yet continued they as vigorous and strong as at the beginning. Don Bellianis being much enraged hereat, did his utmost endeavor to put his enemy out of breath, which he did perform by his quickness and multitude of strokes which he gave him, so that in the end his enemy could not hurt him, and did nothing but defend himself. But

Perianeo being enraged that he was so likely to be overcome, resolved to put all his strength to one blow, which he did in such sort, that striking Don Bellianis on the helmet, he put him out of all remembrance, and his horse being somwhat wounded, ran about the field with him. So soon as he came to himself, and found in what condition he was, and that his enemy pursued him to take away his life, he caught hold on his sword which hung to his wrist with a chain, and being enraged far more than any Bull or Lion, he lifted up his sword and gave his enemy so great a blow on the thigh, that he cut him to the bare bone, from which wound issued much blood; and redoubled his stroke in such manner on his Adversaries helm, that he beat him quite from his horse without any sense or understanding; and looking about him, saw the Duke Alfron like unto on the ground with one blow he had received from Caroliano on the head, where he had nothing to defend it: but the Emperor soon revenged this wrong, for he gave Caroliano so mighty a blow on the head, that he laid him on the earth. Contumeliano and his Adversary Boraldo were both grown very faint, and Contumeliano was at last forced to retire. Don Bellianis perceiving how the day was likely to be their own, dismounted from his horse with a resolution to kill Don Perianeo, if he were not dead already: but on an instant there happned a great flash of lightning and thunder, and there issued from a Cloud a Chariot of Fire drawn by six Griffions, and in the Charriot there was an old man, who with the help of a Dwarf took up the bodies of Perianeo and Gramalis of Thrace, and placing them in the Chariot mounted therein himself, immediately ascended the Skies, leaving behind him a great fire and smoak, which being gone there appeared a Pillar of Marble, on which was engraven in Greek these words following:

Sultan, it is necessary for the preservation of the life of thy dear Son, and his Companion, to carry them to such a place as I have provided: but assure thy self that they shall be both healed of their wounds, and the young Stranger Knight shall make large amends for the loss of his Father, delivering thee and him from the Paw of the Brazen Whelp: in the mean time rest contented,

for when thou art in the greatest danger of thy life, thou shalt be delivered.

This Pillar and the Prophecy thereon, was beheld and read by many: and Don Bellianis and his Father went to Duke Alfaron, and took him, he being in a swound and sorely wounded, and delivered him to one who carried him to a Tent: and both the Knights Contumeliano and Poraldo with weakness and loss of blood having long wrestled together, fell down in a trance; but Caroliano was quite killed with the blow he received from the Emperor. The field being thus cleared of the dead and wounded, the Souldan came from his seat to see what was engraven on the Pillar, which when he had read, it immediately vanished away.

Thus this Combat being finished, the Souldan with all his Guard returned to the City in great sorrow, carrying with them Boraldo much wounded, and the dead body of Caroliano: and the Emperor and his Son returned to their Tents with the wounded body of Contumeliano, Alfaron being sent before.

CHAP. V.

How the Soudan of *Persia* and the Emperor of *Greece* concluded on a Peace, and what happened afterward.

The Souldan of Persia was extreamly discontented for the loss of his Son and Grandson of Thrace, but the Inscription on the Marble Pillar somewhat satisfied him: but when he had considered the end of the Combat, the death of Caroliano, and the desperate estate of Boraldo, and how that all the Knights on the other part were alive, and but too of them any thing hurt with their wounds he resolved with himself on Peace, considering that he knew not what was become of his Son, and therefore it was very necessary for him to take care of the welfare of his Daughter.

Duke Alfaron and Contumeliano being carried into their Tents in the Camp, were looked to so diligently, that in short time they were cured of their wounds. And one day they being

all

altogether in the Tent of the Emperor, to consult of what was most fitting to be done, there arrived a Messenger from the Souldan, who being admitted before them, gave a Letter unto Duke Alfiron, which he according to his usual manner, delivered unto the Secretary to Read, who opening the same, read as followeth.

The Letter of the Souldan of *Persia*, to Duke *Alfiron*.

DUKE, We greet thee well: For as much as the lives of many valiant Knights have been lost in the late Controversie between Me and Thee, which hath been great grief of heart to me for the loss of so many of our Subjects, whose lives we ought to conserve, And to the end that a period may be put to this bloody War, we advise thee forthwith to send our Daughter *Persiana* to our presence, that we may understand from her own mouth, whether she be contented to receive thee for her Husband, which if we find she be willing to do, we promise thee upon our Imperial Word to give her to thee accordingly, and with her such a sufficient Dower, as thou thy self shalt be well contented. And likewise we on our Royal VVord promise, that so soon as the Emperor of *Greece* will send away his Forces, that we will Disband ours, and make such Peace with him as shall be thought convenient. And we do further promise, that we will not only forgive thee and the Kings of *Armenia* and *Assisfanty* all the wrong thou and they have done us by this late Rebellion, but also give such VVriting signifying the same under our Hand and Seal, as shall be thought fitting, therefore fail not forthwith to send us our daughter, that we may put an end to this unhappy difference.

Signed, The SOULDAN.

After these great Personages had heard the Determination of the Souldan, there was none of them that rested discontented

ter, for these Wars have held them a long time from prosecuting their other adventures. And therefore Don Bellianis being more than ordinary desirous of Peace, that he might once more go visit his incomperable Lady the Princess Florisbella, arose and and spake as followeth.

Most renowned Knights, I see no cause why we should not all conclude with Peace, since the Souldan hath sent us such fair Propositions, wherefore my opinion is, that the Princess *Persiana* be forthwith sent for, that the Souldan may receive the satisfaction he desires, which I am confident she will give him: And since the Souldan is so reasonable, I am fully satisfied; for my only business was to restore the Princess *Aurora* to her Kingdom of *Antioch*, which was usurped by *Don Gallanio*, who since he is dead, we have gotten possession of it. I am confident we shall perswade the Souldan to confirm her in the possession of the same, and that he will give us all the satisfaction we shall desire.

After this Speech was ended, there was not one of the Company but rested contented, and thereupon a party of five thousand Horse was immediately dispatched away under the Conduct of Don Gorion, Brother to Duke Alfiron, to conduct the Princess thither: and the Messenger of the Souldan was sent back with another Knight of the Duke Alfirons part, to signifie to the Souldan, that all that he desired on behalf of his Master, and the rest of the Kings and Princes, should be performed to his own satisfaction; which Message being delivered to the Souldan greatly contented him.

CHAP. VI.

How *Don Gorion* arriving at the City of *Bellera*, delivered his Message to *Don Brianel*, and how the Princesses *Persiana* and *Aurora* left the City to travel to the Camp.

DOn Gorion and those who were in his company, made so much haste, that in short time they arrived at the City of Bellera, where they were soon admitted to enter, & arriving at the Pallace

Pallace were quickly permitted to come into the presence of Don Brianel, who in the absence of the Duke was Governor of the City. Don Gorion then in short gave an account to Don Brianel of the success of the War, and how at last they had received a Letter from the Soudan, wherein he signified his desire of Peace, and that there was nothing wanting for the consumation thereof, but the presence of the Princess Persiana.

Don Brianel was very well satisfied with this Message, and went immediately to the two Princesses to certifie them thereof; which when they heard, they were both very well contented: the Princess Persiana, in that her mind was wholly accomplished; and the Princess Aurora, in that she now hoped ere long to be fully setled in her Kingdom: wherefore they both prepared themselves to depart the next morning, and accordingly commanded their Damsels to get all things ready.

Don Brianel this evening sought for an opportunity to discourse with his Lady the Princess Aurora, and thereupon coming into her lodging to know what Commands she would give him against the next day, he found her all alone, wherefore resolving not to let slip this opportunity, he began to her as followeth.

Madam, It is now many moneths since I had the happiness first to see you, ever since which time I have had a desire to serve you, and my actions in hazarding my life for the recovering of your Kingdom, hath given you some testimony thereof: And Madam, were I capable of reducing all the Kingdoms in the world to my Obedience, I should willingly surrender them with my self, to be disposed of by you; therefore dear Madam, since my love is so great, I beseech you vouchsafe me yours, whereby I may be eternally blessed.

When he had finished this Speech, fetching a great sigh, he held his peace: and she who as earnestly loved him as he did her, replyed to him:

Sir Knight, I have understood your love to me, and therefore have formerly reposed so much trust to you, as I never did to

any

any other; for to you alone I committed the disposal of my Kingdom, and for the good you did me there, I heartily thank you. Assure your self that so soon as I shall be perfectly settled therein, I shall dispose my affairs in such order that I shall do all things to your content and liking: and assure your self, that none other living shall enjoy my person and kingdom but your self.

At the ending of the speech, she blushed extreamly that she had been so free in discovering the thoughts of her heart; but Don Brianel was extreamly satisfied herewith, and not being able to speak with the excess of joy that he was in, he fell on his knees, and straitly embracing her legs, he very amorously kissed her fair hands, and then at her desire he arose and gave her many amorous kisses and kind embraces, promising for ever to be her true Knight: and she promised no less to him, that she would not fail to be always his, and in token of her love, she gave him a Scarf embroidered with Gold, where in Letters of Gold was her Name; which he thankfully received, and promised never to leave off wearing the same, till he had the free enjoyment of her person in marriage. And hereupon they broke off their friendly and amorous discourse, taking a farewell of each other, he returning to put all things in readiness for the next days expedition, and she retiring her self into her Closet, to contemplate what she had done.

Thus every body employed themselves in somwhat for the next days journy, till it was time to go to rest: but the two Lovers Don Brianel and Aurora could sleep but little that night for the content they had received in the evenings conference, and therefore they were the first that did rise, by whose example all the rest soon rise and made themselves ready. Don Gordon and Don Brianel summoned the Knights and Magistrates of the City together, to whom they declared the will of their Lord Almon. And leaving a sufficient guard in the City, they went to the Pallace, where they found the Princesses in a readiness to depart. Chariots being brought for them, they quickly mounted therein, and so accompanied with several Damsels and a guard of ten thousand Knights, they departed from the City, and took the right way for Persepolis.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

How *Don Brianel* and *Don Gerion* arrived at the Camp of the Emperor of *Greece*, and how the Duke *Alfiron* and the Princess *Perſiana* preſented themſelves before the Souldan.

WIth much joy and pleaſure travelled this company, eſpecially the Ladyes, the one being in company of her moſt beloved Lord, and the other going to her loving Husband: but the joy of Don Brianel was extraordinary, for the favors he had received at the hands of the Princeſs, and as a teſtimony of his joy he wore the Scarf which ſhe had given him on his arm.

Thus travelled they with much content, till at length they met with ſome of the Knights of the Emperors Army, who were come on purpoſe to meet them: and then ſome were ſent back to ſignifie to the Emperor and the reſt of the Princes, the approach of thoſe Princeſſes, which they no ſooner underſtood, but they went out to meet them. Two leagues from the Camp they were met by the Emperor, Don Bellianis, the Duke *Alfiron*, the Kings of *Armenia* and *Teſſalonia*, and all thoſe other moſt renowned Princes and States, who coming near them, diſmounted from their horſes to ſalute them. The Princeſſes ſeing that, deſcended from their Chariots and kindly received them: Then two ſtately Palfreys were brought whereon the two Princeſſes were mounted, and Don Bellianis took hold of the Reins of the Princeſs *Aurora*'s Palfrey, and the Emperor himſelf did the ſame to *Perſiana*.

Don Bellianis during the remainder of their Journy, asked the Princeſs *Aurora* whether ſhe had received any content in the company of Don Brianel: for, ſaith he I ſee by his countenance that he is very much pleaſed, and he ſheweth very gloriouſly with the Favor that he hath tyed to his arm, and therefore I deſire to know what Willfils he hath gotten ſince our departure. To which diſcourſe the Princeſs replyed: Sir Knight, the content that I have received in his company cannot chuſe but be much

in respect of the service that he hath already done me, in helping to restore me to my kingdom, and therfore in token of my gratitude, I have given him that Scarf as a small token of my Favor to him.

In such like communication spent they their time, till they arriued at the Camp, where they alighted and were receiued with great Joy, signified by the sound of Drums and Trumpets, and Clarions: The Princesses Persiana and Aurora were conducted to a Tent for that purpose prouided, where they both lodged together: the Duke Alfeon being contented not to lye with his beloued Princess, till she should be giuen him by her Father, which he hoped would be done the next morning. Night being come, every one repaired to their seuerall lodgings, and their took their ordinary repose, onely Don Bellianis was much troubled that he was still kept there, and hindred from visiting his Princess Florisbella, and besides he knew not how to go to her for his Father expected upon the conclusion of the Peace, that he would return with him to Constantinople.

In these meditations he spent most part of the night, and when morning came he arose and dispatched a messenger into the City, to certifie the Soudan of his Daughters arrival, and to know his pleasure what should be done. To which the Soudan returned answer, that he expected her and the Duke to come to his presence that day, in company of what other Knights they pleased.

The Duke and Princess being certified hereof, prepared themselues for that purpose, and about noon, only accompanied with the Princess Aurora, Don Bellianis, and Don Brianel, they entred the City, and came into the presence of the Soudan, who was seated on a throne, and his great Lords about him. The Princess Persiana and the Duke humbled themselues on their knees, and she humbly desired her Father to forgiue her rashness, for it was onely true loue that caused her to do the same and promised him that if he would deign to pardon that great fault, she would in all things continue his obedient Daughter during life, and concluding her Speech, she shed many teares: To which the Soudan replyed, that her disobedience to his commands, had occasioned the loss of the liues of many of his Subjects

Subjects, and that therefore she might expect the Gods to be continually angred with all her undertakings, but as for his part, seeing she had made so free a confession of her fault, he did freely forgive her, and then arising from his Throne, he came down and took her by the hand, and raised her from the ground, and then caused the Duke Alfiron to arise, to whom he gave her wishing the Gods to bless them.

Thus this being done to the content of all that were present, the Souldan commanded the Tables to be covered, and desired the Strangers to sit down to dinner, promising in the afternoon to give them satisfaction in order to a general peace.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Wars were ended between the Souldan and the Emperor, and a Peace concluded for ten years.

NO sooner was Dinner ended, but the Souldan entring into his Council Chamber, sent for Don Bellianis and Don Brandel, and told them, that since he was satisfied in his Daughters marriage, which had been the greatest cause of these wars, it should be at their own dispose whether they would have Peace or War.

To which Don Bellianis replyed, that his coming thither was for no other end but to assist the Princess Aurora in recovering the Kingdom of Antioch from the hands of Don Gallaneo, who had wrongfully possessed himself of the same, as it could not be unknown to the Souldan: and that now Don Gallaneo being dead, as also the King who had lately usurped the same, and all her Subjects being desirous to come under her obedience, he humbly desired that his Highness would do her that justice, as to let her peaceably enjoy the same.

The Souldan having understood formerly of the affairs of that Kingdom, and that it was now in the possession of her Deputies granted the request of Don Bellianis, on condition that she and her Heirs would for the future pay the accustomed Tribute, the which he on her part promised to perform. The next thing that

was propounded, was Peace between the Emperor and the Soudan, which the Soudan consented to hold firmly for ten years. And to conclude all, promised a free Pardon to the Kings of Armenia and Jessifancy, who were his Tributaries. Whereupon Don Bellianis and Don Brianel departed from the Soudan to carry this news to the Camp, where the chief being assembled joyfully received the News, and for that night made continual Bone-fires, so that both in the City and Camp it was all night as light as day.

The next morning early a Messenger arrived in the Camp, to give an Invitation to the Emperor and the rest of those great Lords, to come into the City to dine with the Soudan: which Invitation was accepted of, and accordingly about Eleven of the Clock they all set forwards and so entred the City, being attended with great Ceremonies and Pomp by many of the Souldans Knights. As soon as they came near the Pallace, the Souldan had notice thereof and came to receive them, and although till now they had been the greatest enemies in all the World, yet the Soudan and the Emperor embraced one another with much freedom and amity: and thus the Soudan received all the rest of the Principal Knights, and so conducted them into the great Hall of the Pallace, where all things were provided for Dinner in most sumptious manner; which being ended, the Soudan and Emperor ratifyed and confirmed the Peace which had been before concluded on: And to signifie his love to Duke Alfiron, and gave him the Kingdom of Shyraz, which was a place under his subjection and belonged to his Empire, and then the Duke Alfiron and the Princess Persiana his wife were immediately owned by all for King and Queen of Shyraz: nothing was now wanting in the Court of Persia to give it its full lustre, but the presence of the Prince Perianeo, whose absence much dilcpted the Soudan.

All things being thus fortunately concluded, the Soudan disbanded his Army, and the Emperor sent his away by Sea, under the command of Sabian of Trebanto, who accordingly embarqued himself, and within ten days departed: here was nothing now wanting, but to put the two Princesses in possession of their Kingdoms, the Princess Aurora into her Kingdom of Antioch, and the Princess Persiana and her husband into possession

of the Kingdom of Shyraz, for which purpose he with Letters to the present Governor to give them possession thereof, the Princess Aurora desired the Company of some Knights to go with her; the first that offered his service was Don Brianel, and then Don Clarineo of Spain, and Don Lucidamore of Thessaly, because they had formerly been there, desired to attend her, and so did Contumeliano Prince of Phenicia, and Florispiano of Swevia his Cousin, these all chose to attend the Princess Aurora: On the other side Don Fellianis desired his Father to permit him to attend the Princess Persiana and her husband to Shyraz, and he chose rather to go thither, because it was nearest to Babylon, where his beloved Princess did remain, and to which place he intended to go. His Father intending to carry him home with him, hardly consented to this separation, but at length at the intreaty of the Princess and her Husband, he was content provided his Son engaged to return home again in six months which he consented to do. They that accompanied the Princess besides, were the Kings of Armenia and Tessifanty, so that there was not any left to accompany the Emperor home, but Arsileo Prince of Hungary, and Don Gorino was sent back to the City of Bollera, to signifie the conclusion of the Peace. Thus all were appointed to travel, only Boraldo, Don Fermosel, and Crisalaneo who stayed with the Soudan. Things being thus concluded, every person after they had taken leave of the Soudan, within two days after departed.

CHAP. IX.

How the Princess *Aurora* and *Don Brianel* with the rest of their Company, arrived at *Antioch*, and what happined to them there.

SO long travelled the Princess Aurora and the Princes and Knights that accompanied her, that at last they arrived in the Kingdome of Antioch, without happening on any considerable Adventure: and when they were come near the City, Damartino the Governor, and Count Gorino, with several others of the Nobility, being advertised of their

coming, went out to meet them. So soon as they approached nier to the Princess, they dismounted from their horses, and on their knees bid her welcome: but she likewise dismounted, and entred a Tent that was prepared and set up for that purpose, where she permitted her hands to be kissed by several of the Nobility. Great thanks was returned to Don Brianel and his companions, not only for the good they had done them in recovering the kingdom, and in that restoring their Liberties which were formerly lost by the usurpation of the late Tyrants, but also for their making them so happy in the sight of their dear Princess, whom they had now brought home to them. After a short repast which was provided in the Tent was ended, they all mounted again with a resolution to enter the City: the place where they had stayed was a league from the City, yet all the fields and places during their passage was beset with multitudes of people, who cryed with continual noise, The Gods preserve our Royal Queen Aurora. Being thus accompanied, they entred the City, and in good order arrived at the Pallace, where by reason it was night, the Princess dismissed the multitude with thanks, and so every one being much wearied with this days journy, went to take their ordinary repose. The next day they were no sooner up, but the cry continued, and great was the acclamations that were made by the multitude.

That which the Queen took first into her consideration, was the ordering of her houshold, and the first Officer she made was the Controller thereof, which Office she gave to Don Brianel, intending ere long to make him Controller of her Person. This joy continued many days, and many were the Jousts and Tournaments that were exercised to delight the Queen, in which exercise the Knights that accompanied her thither, still bore away the prize, however the Count Gariano demeaned himself like a valiant and hardy Knight, maintaining the Jousts for one day against all Knights-adventurers, in which time he dismounted above twenty Knights.

The Queen understanding one day that Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, Don Contumeliano, and Florispiano intended to leave her Court, and to go seek out adventures elsewhere, resolved before their departure to consummate her marriage with Don

Brianel

Brianel, to whom ſhe communicated the matter, and he had demeaned himſelf ſo courteouſly, that he queſtioned not but that it would be to the general ſatisfaction of her Nobility, and therefore knowing the mind of the Princeſs, he diſcovered it to Damartino, and Gariano, and ſeveral others of the Nobility, and the next day the Queen being in Counſel, one of her Nobility propounded a husband to her, which propoſition was no ſooner made, but the general debate of the Counſel was of that matter, and after ſeveral propoſitions, Don Brianel was by ſeveral of his Friends propounded, and indeed for the reſtoration of the Princeſs, was ſo far had into conſideration, that he was by common conſent propounded for a fit Husband for their Queen, who no ſooner had the propoſition made her, but ſhe willingly aſſented thereto, and preſently orders were given for the ſolemnization of the Marriage, which was intended to be kept within a fortnight after. This news gave great ſatisfaction and content to Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, that their Couſin had ſo great good fortune, to be wedded to ſo vertuous a Princeſs, and therefore notwithſtanding their former reſolutions to depart they and Contumeliano and Floriſpianio reſolved to ſtay, and aſſiſt at the Solemnization of thoſe Ceremonies, where we will leave them in great content, to treat of other matters.

CHAP. X.

How the Princes Perianeo of Perſia, and Gramalis of Thrace, were carried into the Deſart of Death, and of that which happened to them there.

THe Sage Friſtone made ſuch haſte through the air with the wounded bodies of Perianeo and Gramalis, that in leſs time they arrived at the end of their journy, where being arrived, the Sage Friſtone cauſed them (who were all this while in a Trance) to be taken out of the Chariot, and placed in beds in two ſeveral Rooms, and then commanded ſeveral Damſels to attend the end of their fainting, which they accordingly did: the Prince Perianeo was the firſt that came to himſelf, when

when opening his eyes and looking about him, he fetched a great groan, the Damsels who were left to attend him, hearing thereof, presently came to him, and seing his eyes open, they presently gave him something to drink out of a vial which he took, and then with a weak voice asked them in what place he was: They desired him to rest satisfied for the present, and he should know more of that hereafter, and in the mean time they desired him to permit them to dress his wounds, to which he consented, and they presently being very skillful in that mystery, applyed such Remedies that they assured him that in few days he should be able to walk about his Chamber; and they further desired him for the present to dispose himself for rest, which he did accordingly, and they departed to inform the Sage Friestone thereof, who was marvellously well satisfyed in what they had done.

Gramalis continued in his swooning fit twelve hours longer then Perianeo, but so soon as he had recovered any sense, he cryed out, by the Gods I will soon be revenged of this blow, and therewith endeavoured to rise from his bed, but could not through loss of blood, but fell down again: whereupon they who were left to attend him, gave him a cordial, and then dressed his wounds without speaking to him. Perianeo after he had taken a sleep of about six hours awaked, and seing no body neer him, he drew one of the Curtains of his bed, and perceived a Candle, by the light of which he deemed that he was in a large Chamber all hung with black, and that there was no other light in the Room, but what one Candle afforded, wherefore finding his wounds to be bound up, and remembring that he had some company, endeavoured to arise, but through faintness could not; then he called to mind the Battel in which he was lately engaged and remembred that he had well nigh overcome his adversary, but remembred nothing of the two last blows that he had received which had brought him into this condition. Thus lay he musing and wondring with himself what place he was in sometime believing all that he saw to be only fancy, and another while supposing himself to be in his Fathers Court laid out for dead in some Chamber there: and this he was perswaded to by reason of the blackness of every thing about him.

At

At length two Damsels entred the room at a dor, placed in a corner thereof, they were both habited in black, the one carried a Candle in her hand, and the other followed her with a Cor, wherein were Cyntments and Plaisters: coming to the Bed-side they found him awake, and in pretty good condition, he seeing them continue their silence, began thus to them: Ladies I have received our kindness from you already, for which I render you thanks, and desire you to binde me to you for another, which is, that you will tell me in what place I am, and how I came hither.

The Ladies hearing him speak with so great moderation, gave him this Answer: Sir Knight, how you came hither we know not, but yesterday you were brought in hither by the Lord of this place, whose name is Fridone, and delivered to our keeping, telling us that we must apply these Medicines to your wounds, shewing us likewise that you were such a person as was very well able to requite what kindness we should afford you: As for the name of this place, we cannot tell you, for it is not long since we were brought hither by an adventure, of which we shall tell you more hereafter.

Thus after they had ended their discourse, they desired him to permit them to search his wounds, which he consented to, and they, after they had applyed remedies to his wounds, departed, leaving him somewhat better satisfied than he was.

Thus these two Knights continued in this place several days, till at length they were so well recovered of their wounds, that they could walk about their Chambers. All this while was Fristone in his study, turning over many Books to find out what should be the fortune of the Prince Perianeo, and finding that when ever he should meet with Don Belianis, his life would be much endangered: and well knowing that the Prince would endeavor to go to Babylon, if he were out of his possession, and that there he would meet with Don Belianis, he resolved to prevent that meeting: wherefore one day as Perianeo was walking in his Chamber, the sage Fristone entred to him, and told him that he was very glad of his so sudden amendment in his health, to which Perianeo knowing him, replied:

Reverend Father, many have been the obligations wherein

you have bound your self Knight, but this last hath been the most considerable, in that you have given help and assistance to me when I was not capable of helping my self: and good father, I have now but one request to you which I pray you to grant me, which is that you will tell me by what adventure I came I came hither and what was the issue of the Combat.

To which discreet Fristone thus answered, Sir Knight, it was not of a long time unknown to me of the Battel that you and your friends should undertake against the Emperor of Greece, his son, and friends, and of the danger that you should undergo therein, which I endeavoured to prevent by my Art, but your enemy Don Bellianis by reason of a Sword and Armor which he hath lately won, cannot be hindred from the performance of any adventure, notwithstanding all the art of incantations that I can use, wherefore finding it in vain to attempt any thing by art to hurt him, I therefore applyed my self to help you when there should be occasion, and understanding that your life, and that of two of your friends would be in great danger, and knowing that by my art I should be able to help you self and one other of your friends, I therefore provided me a Chariot, in which I mounted the air at such time as you and your friends were entred the Combat, and arrived at the place of your fight, just as it had like to have been unfortunately finished, for Don Bellianis was just then about to deprive you of your precious life, and then he recounted to him, how he found him in the field in a Trance, and how that Gramalis of Thrace, and Caroliano, being in as deliberate a condition as himself, he chose Gramalis and left the other, and brought both himself and Gramalis to that his habitation, where he had ordered the matter so well, that they were in pretty good condition.

Perianeo much wondring at this adventure, said: But good father, how will the Soudan my Father be satisfied with my condition? Then Fristone told him of the Pillar he left there, and the inscription thereon, which had given satisfaction to him, and therefore advised him to rest contented; and so taking him by the hand he led him out of that Chamber into another adjoyning, which was as dark as his own, and there they found Gramalis of Thrace walking about: Perianeo was not so much a-

mazed

mazed to see him, as Gramalis was surprized to see the Prince enter his Chamber, for he knew not in the least where he was, for his wounds being somewhat more desperate then Perianeo's, Fristone had commanded those that attended him, not to use any discourse with him, least that it should prejudice his his health. They being thus met, kindly saluted each other, and then Perianeo recounted to Gramalis the manner how they were brought thither, the danger they had been in, and the care of which Fridoun had taken of their healths, for which they both kindly returned him thank. Thus these two friends being together, Fristone left them in loving communication, and went to take order about his other affairs.

They had not long walked together, but the two Damsels that had attended them in their sickness, came in to them, and brought with them several Comfits and preserved Fruits and Wines, wherewith they covered a Table and caused the two Knights to sit down to eat, which they did, and then the Table being removed, Perianeo taking one of the Damsels by the hand, led her to the window where he thus spake to her.

Lady, my condition hath been so low of late, that I have been very much obliged to your care and pains, that I am now in so good a plight, for which your great care I render you all humble and hearty thanks, assuring you that when ever you have occasion to use me, you shall find that there shall be nothing so difficult, but I will be ready to undertake it with exceeding great pleasure, so that I may serve you therein, and therefore Lady I desire you inform me of your condition, and the place where I now remain. The Damsel perceiving that he had continued, thus answered him: Sir Knight, I humbly thank you for your acceptance of my mean endeavors, and am glad that any thing that I can do will give you any pleasure, and to the end that I may satisfie your desires, know Sir, that I belong to an honorable Princess called Meredians sole daughter and heir to the valiant King Georgians of Soria, who living at home with her Father, was taken out of her Court one day by the Sage Fristone, who desired her Father to spare her, to put an end to an Adventure that could not be finished without her presence: her Father well knowing the Sage Fristone to be his friend, consen-

ved to her departure, and so she taking six of her Damsels with her, whereof I and my companion are two, we travelled towards Babilon, where when we arrived, the sage Fristone told us that his design was to get the beautious Princess Florisbella into his custody, whereby he might pleasure a Knight his very good friend; which adventure he had accomplished, but that there arrived at that instant a Knight armed with a rich Armor, beset with Basilisks, who hindred our attempt: then told she the Prince the whole manner of his adventure: as it is at large set down in the forty second Chapter of the first part of this History, and then she thus proceeded: We being thus hindred from finishing this adventure, were immediately carried through the air till we arrived at an Island, where when we came down, we found it to be the most pleasant place in the whole world, for it was adorned with a most delightsome Palace, and all manner of Gardens and Walks so delicious, that we having been there above six months, are not sensible of my inclemency in the air, but it still continues as pleasant as if it were the month of May, and it is now about a fortnight since the sage Fristone coming thither, requested our Mistres to give us leave to go with him for a few days, promising that she should receive much satisfaction in our journy, and that we should speedily return: and as for the place where now we are, we know no other of it but that it is called the Desert of Death, and indeed it may properly enough be termed so, for I never was in any place so doleſome and melancholly as this is, there being no other light coming into this place but what a candle produceth, and the fields, which are but few, look as if no grass nor any other herb had ever grown there, and there are no trees but Yew grow here. This Sir Knight, is all that I can tell you of this adventure.

Gramalis of Thrace had likewise been attentive to this discourse, and they did much marvel at the strangeness of the Damsels recital, but Perianeo asked the Damsel how far off it was to that pleasant Island where her Lady remained, and what company was with her. To which she answered, That it could not be very far to that Island, for they were but three hours in coming from thence, and that their Princess was onely

onely accompanied with a Lady named Altea, who they found there, and which was very fair and beautiful, and the four Giants who kept the Pallace as a guard, besides the Damsels who waited on the two Ladies, and the two old Women who provided all manner of provision. Thus these two Damsels having finished their discourse, they took their leaves of the two Knights and departed.

CHAP. XI.

How the two Princes *Perianeo* of *Persia*, and *Gramalis* of *Thrace*, being thoroughly cured of their wounds, and walking *in the Desert of Death*, came to the water sides and finding a Barque went into her, which carried them immediately to *the pleasant Island*, and of that which happened to them there.

These two Knights being thus cured of their wounds, and being desirous to depart, besought the sage Fristone to let them have their Armor and furnish them with Horses that they might be gone: but he knowing the danger that Perianeo would undergo if he went away, resolved to prevent it, and therefore would not consent, telling them that in short time an Adventure would happen wherein they would, if they performed it reap great benefit and content. This was all the satisfaction they could receive from him, wherefore they getting them Swords and Hunting-Javelins, spent their time in that Desart in hunting the wild Boar, and such like exercises. One day as they were hunting together, they went so far in pursuit of a Bear, that they came to the water side, and presently the beast took the water and quickly swam out of their sight; at which they being much troubled, sought for a Boat or some Barque to follow their Game, when suddenly looking about them, they espied a small Barque coming towards them, which being come on shore, they stepped into it and looking about for Oars, they were immediately carried from land, and carried a great way into the Sea, but on an instant the Sun shined so bright, and the Waters were as calm, and the air so serene and clear, that they

thly much wondred, being come from a place that was dismal and cold. Thus the Barque went forwards without either Sayl or Oars till in the end they discovered Land, and saw that the Barque made speed thither; at which they rested contented, and in short time after they went ashore, not knowing were they were but going to take hold of the Barque to fasten it to somewhat against they should have occasion to use it, it suddenly vanished, at which they were much troubled: thus seing there was no way to go back, they were resolved to go forwards, and onely armed with their Swords and Spears they set forwards: they travelled two hours in the pleasantest walks and fields in the world, without meeting with any thing, and hearing no noise onely the continual melody of the Birds gave them singular contentment. at length they espyed a great Castle scituated in a pleasant meadow, and encompassed with all manner of fruit trees, upon one of those trees there was a tablet whereon was inscribed:

If thou art so valiant as to undertake the entence into this Castle, blow this Horn, and prepare thy self to be received.

This Inscription very hap no sooner read, but they resolved to try the adventure, and therefore they cast lots who shoul first begin: The lot fell upon Gramalis, and therefore Perianeo going somewhat out of the way, left Gramalis to undertake the adventure. He had no sooner blown the horn which hung by the Tablet, but two gates opened, and there issued out from thence a huge and monstrous Giant, armed at all points, with a great Iron Mace in his hand, who seing the Knight before him, said: Presumptious villain, how dairest thou unarmed undertake so great an enterprize, as to disturb the quiet of this place?

To which Gramalis answered, trouble not thy self at my being unarmed, but if I must combat thee before I gain my entrance, prepare thy self to Battel, and defend thy self: at which words the Giant lifted up the Mace, and came forward thinking with one blow to end the Battel, but Gramalis quickly avoiding the stroke of the Mace with his hunting-spear, wounded the Giant in the Thigh, and the very stroke gave him so great a blow

blow on the arm, that he could not draw out his ſpear, but was forced to leave it ſticking there: whilſt the Giant drew the ſpear from his arm, Don Gramalis drew his ſword, and went to finiſh the combat: but the enraged Giant did hit the Knight ſo great a blow on the ſhoulder, that he ſorely bruiſed him, whereat Gramalis being greatly enraged, gave the Giant ſo great a blow on the other arm, that he let fall his Mace and roared like a Bull, and with the quantity of blood he loſt, fell down: at which a Dwarf that was placed on the top of the Tower, blew a horn, and immediately another Giant came forth, more deformed and horrible then the firſt, who reſolved to revenge the wrong of his fellow, and therefore ſoon made up to Gramalis and aſſaulted him moſt fiercely, giving him many wounds, ſo that in the end Gramalis through the want of blood, and the pain he felt in his ſide, fainted and fell down. At which the Giant went forwards to kill him, but Perianeo ſoon prevented him, aſſaulting him in ſuch marvellous manner, that he made him keep company with his fellow on the ground: at which the Dwarf once more ſounded his horn, and then their iſſued out two Giants of a very great ſize, who carried great Maces on their ſhoulders and cutting Faulchions at their ſides, and without any diſcourſe they both fell upon the Prince, and gave him many weighty blows which he received on his ſpear; but in the end that being broken he drew his ſword, and valiantly defended himſelf, ſtill avoiding their blows, and dammaging his adverſaries, ſo that they ſeeing that that they only beat the air, or the ground, were much enraged and came neer to him to deſtroy him, but he nimbly ſtepping within them, made them loſe their blows, and he hit one of them on the leg ſo great a blow, that he made a great wound, and the Giant not being able to ſtand, fell on the earth, whereupon the other Giant his Companion ſeeing that if he continued that manner of fighting, he ſhould remain vanquiſhed as well as his Companions, he threw away his Mace, and ran with great eagerneſs on the Knight, thinking to catch him in his arms, and there to ſqueeze him in peices: but he being very ſtrong, ſorely wounded the Giant before he got within him, and then wreſtled ſo with him, that they both fell to the earth, the Giant holding Perianeo cloſe in his arms; but he remembring

membring that he had a dagger in his pocket, quickly drew the same and stabbed him in three or four places in such manner, that he let go his hold, whereat Perianeo got on his feet, though sorely wounded, and approached to the gates of the Castle, which being open he entred, and walking through a great Hall he went into a Parlor, the most beautiful in the World, where he saw two Ladies who were placed above the rest, and about twelve Damsels attending on them, to whom he said:

Divine Beauties, for no less can I esteem of you, Providence having brought me on shore on this Land, I made bold arriving at this Castle to enter therein but I was hindred by several whom I suppose were left to guard the same, whom I have so ordered in combat, that I remain the victor, and therefore I make bold to approach your presence, humbly craving your pardon, and desiring to know of you whether there be any thing further to be done whereby I may do you any service, and whither what I have already done be not prejudicial to you.

To which speech one of the Ladies replyed, That indeed the Giants were placed there as Guardians of that place, but since by his invincible valor they were subdued, he was as welcome as themselves, & all things there was free to his disposal: at which speech he rested satisfied, onely he desired that the wounded might be taken care of, and more especially a Knight who was wounded, and a friend of his: at which discourse several of the Damsels went out with him where they found the Giants and the Knight still lying on the ground, wherefore he helped to convey them to beds, and the Damsels applyed such plaisters and medicines to their wounds, that in short time they were cured of the same.

Being cured, the Giants and Knights remained loving friends, resolving to assist each other, and the Knights had no desire to go from that place, for the Ladies whom they saw were the two Princess Meridiana and Alter, who took very great good liking to the two Knights Perianeo and Gramalis, who loved them as well, so that in the end their friendship arrived to that height, that they resolved never to leave one another all daies of their lives: and the Prince Perianeo was so amorous of the Princess Meridiana, that he quite forgot the Princess Florisbella, and she no less loved him, so that at length he enjoyed the Princess as fully

fully as if she had bin his Wife and she permitted him to crop that Maiden-flower, and enter that Virgin Zone, which had cost the lives of many valorous Knights.

On the other side Gramalis of Thrace and the Princess Altea loved each other with as fond affection, and she permitted him to be Lord of her body, and to take such fruit from thence as pleased him best.

Thus these two Ladies and Knights lived together in all manner of delight, and the two Knights plyed themselves so well in their Nocturnal Embraces, that both the Princesses were with Child, which was great joy and content to them all: which pleasure we shall leave them, and return to give you an account of other Adventures.

CHAP. XII.

How the Princess *Persiana* and her Husband Duke *Alfiron* were conducted to *Shyraz* by *Don Bellianis* of *Greece*, and the Kings of *Armenia* and *Tessifanty*, where by the way they met with an Adventure.

THus having left these two Princes and Ladies in all content and pleasure, let us return to the Princess Persiana and the Company that attended on her, who travelled many days without happening on any Adventure: at length Don *Bellianis* being very pensive, travelled one day before the rest of the company, and being very melancholly for he thought of his dear Sister the Princess Florisbella, on a sudden he heard a voice call to him, saying, Sir Knight, I beseech you tell me where is the next City, that I may go quickly to it and procure some aid to some persons of great quality that stand in need of help. Don Bellianis giving attention to this discourse, and seeing it was a Lady that spake to him, he thus replyed: Fair Lady, if you be not in extream great haste, I beseech you relate to me the occasion of your travel, it is possible

that I may furnish you with that assistance you expect. Ah Sir Knight, replyed the Lady, it is not in the power of any one particular Knight to effect that which must be done; therefore good Sir either Answer me the question, or permit me to go forwards. Lady, said Don-Bellianis, not far from hence there is much company coming who will be with us presently, therefore I pray relate to me your business while they come to us, and then I shall furnish you with such help as shall be needful. The Lady understanding that he spake nothing but reason, thus replyed: Know then, Sir Knight, that I belong to the vertuous Princess Matrarosa, Daughter to the King of Numidia, and Niece to the Souldan of Babylon: this Princess hath for many years lived at the Court of the Souldan her Uncle, in the Company of the Princess Florisbella her Cousin, but of late her Father being grown Old, and desirous to dispose of her in marriage before he died, sent her Brother Baltasano to the Court of the Souldan to bring his Sister to him: Baltasano after he had continued some time in the Court of the Souldan, desired leave to depart with his Sister to her Father that expected them; to which it was a long time e're he could get the Souldans consent in regard of the great love that hath been betwæn her and his daughter Florisbella. About two Months since there was great Jousts and Tournaments held at the Souldans Court in honor of his Coronation Day: at which time many strange Knights and Gyants repaired thither to do their utmost devoirs, amongst the rest that came, there was one Gyant called Altifer the Proud, Lord of an Island in the Sea, and his two Brothers, and forty Knights. This Gyant beholding my Mistress the Princess Matrarosa, began to affect her, and performed some things for her honor, hoping thereby to get her good Will: but she who always hated him, as well for the deformity of his mind as body, would by no means consent to come into his Company much less to receive him as a Servant, and he having desired her of her Uncle the Souldan, and her Brother, who both refused him; went away with all his Company in much discontent resolving to put in practice some treasonable action that he might obtain her.

Our Princess and her Brother, who suspected no such treason,

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some time after he was gone, having taken leave of the Souldan and the Princess Florisbella, departed in the Company of twenty Knights for their Guard: but we had not travelled above two days when this Traytor Altifer with all his company set upon us, slew many of our Knights, and took the Princess and her Brother Prisoners. I seing that they were taken, fled from them, and have followed them these three days to see still where they lodged at Night, and endeavouring to find some help to relieve them, and Sir Knight, this is the last day before they will embarque themselves for the Island whereof he is Chief, and then all the means that I can use, will be ineffectual for their Release. This Sir Knight, is the substance of my Message, and therefore pray fail not to give me the best directions you can.

Don Bellianis having heard this Discourse, and considering that in relieving the Princess Mattarosa, he should do his Princess her Cousin a considerable service, resolved to undertake it, and therefore the Company being now come up to him, he went to the Princess Persiana and her Husband, and recounted to them the Damsels discourse, and told them that he must beg leave of them to go and relieve the Princess and her Brother, promising them to return with all speed possible, as soon as he had effected his Enterprize.

They not only consented to his departure, but also gave him leave to take what company of Knights he desired: but he chosing only twenty of the most hardy, left the rest to conduct them to Shyraz, and so he took his leave and departed with the Damsel, who seing her Journey turn to so good account, was very thankfull, and Rode on apace to assist her Princess.

CHAP. XIII.

How *Don Bellianis* went with the Damsel of the Princess *Matarosa*, to relieve her out of the hands of the Gyant *Altifer* and his Company: And how he and his Company overcame the Gyant and his two Brethren and Company, and Released the Princess and her Brother *Baltasano*: And how she knew him to be the *Knight of the Golden Image*, and how she and her Brother left him, to depart towards *Babylon*.

IT was yet but early in the morning when Don Bellianis and his Company parted, and therefore we will leave them in their Journey towards Shyraz, to tell you what befel Don Bellianis, who travelled so long with the Damsel that at last they arrived in sight of a Castle seated on a Rock, which when the Damsel espied, she said, Sir Knight, this is the Castle where the Gyants and the other company lodged this night, and I believe they are not as yet come out of it, because he that is Lord of this Castle is of kindred to the Gyant Altifer, and therefore I pray let us attend here for their coming forth. Don Bellianis therefore advising with himself, left two of his Knights to attend there, whilst he and the rest travelled on the way the Gyants were to take, and there they hid themselves in a thicket of Trees.

It was not fully an hour before the two Knights came galloping amain to Don Bellianis, informing him that the Giants and their company were come out of the Castle, and were coming thitherwards with the prisoners. The Prince *Baltasano* they tyed on a horse with his hands behind him, and so they did to about twelve Knights more that were prisoners, and the Princess Marearosa and several of her Damsels, were carried before certain Knights on horseback, and did make great lamentation.

The Knights did likewise advise Don Bellianis not to let on the Gyants and their company as yet, for that the Gyant of the Castle where they lay was come out with them, with above twenty Knights to bear them company a little way, and therefore

fore it was best to forbear setting on them till they were gone: To this advise Don Bellianis could hardly be perswaded, so earnest was his desire to do some signal Service for his Lady the Princess Florisbella; but in the end he was over-ruled by the Damsel, and promised to attend their parting for an hour or two, and if they did not by that time leave one another, that he would set upon them all. And in this resolution he marched forwards, commanding the two Knights to go back & give him notice of what should happen, which was done accordingly. Thus did Don Bellianis march on for one hour in great expectation, till at length the two Knights came to him to inform him that now was the time, for the Gyants kinsman was departed, and there was not above thirty five Knights and three Gyants, and ten of the Knights were employed in guarding of the prisoners that were with them.

Never was Don Bellianis so well pleased in all his life as he was at this instant, and therefore commanding all his Knights to be in a readiness, the turned back his horse, and went to meet the Gyants and their company. Don Bellianis had not rid far before he met with them, the two Gyants brothers to Alcifer, riding before the rest on great horses, and with Iron Maces hanging on their Sadle-bows. Our Knights went strait up to them, and some of the Princesses Damsels making a lamentation, Don Bellianis enquired what was the cause why they forced Ladies to go with them against their wills? to which one of the Gyants proudly answered, It were best for you, Sir Knight, to keep on your way, and not to meddle with the affairs of others, not being called thereto. To which he answered, that he and all other Knights were bound to enquire into the affairs of distressed Ladies, and to relieve them to their power, whereupon one of the Gyants laid hold on his Mace, thinking to dash him in peices, but he turning his horse on one side, couched his Lance and run so fiercely on the other Gyant, that he forced him to measure his length on the earth, at whose example all the rest of the company did the like, and they performed their parts so well, that fifteen Knights and two Giants were dismounted, and six were slain out right.

The Giant Alcifer seeing himself so beset, presently couched his lance and did some mischief: But Don Bellianis soon hin-

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dred him from proceeding, for he reached him such a stroke that he made his horse bend his knees to the Ground, and his Master catch hold of his horse neck to keep himself from falling, and then crying Florisbella, and Victory, he gave two such mighty strokes to two Knights that stood in his Way, that he sent them tumbling to the Earth, and then coming to the Prince Baltasano, he immediately unbound him, and gave him a Sword, by whose example the rest of his Knights released the rest of the prisoners and then began the fight to be most bloody.

The Giant Altifer, and his two brothers seeing the valour of that one Knight, resolved to set upon him, and so they all three came with the same resolution, but he quickly seeing the danger he was likely to run into, if he did not dispatch, gave one of them so powerful a blow, that he cut off his Arm, and forced him to let his Mace fall to the Ground.

The two brothers seeing this, came with both their Maces at once, intending to beat him to peices, but Baltasano who he had unbound having gotten a Sword, Buckler and Helmet, received one of them, and gave him in return so puissant a stroke, that he cut off one of his arms and wounded him in the shoulder; the enraged Giants did all they could to revenge the Wounds they had received, and Altifer himself seeing that he was like to lose his Mistris, left the Combat, and coming to the Knight that had the Princess in guard before him, took her and set her on his own horse before him, and did ride away with all the speed possible: at which action the Damsels gave a great screch, which Don Bellianis hearing much wondred, and leaving the fight, turned himself about, but he had no sooner perceived the cause, but like lightning he made hast after him, and being very well mounted, he soon overtook him, which the Giant seeing, he let fall the Lady, and turned about to encounter Don Bellianis, being glad that he had gotten him alone, and Don Bellianis was no less glad then he, not only for that, but also in regard that he had let go the Princess, fearing much that if he had held her still she might have been hurt in the combat. Thus these two Combatants equally resolved, assaulted each other, and gave and received many Wounds, but Don Bellianis whose valour was not to be equalled by any Giant or Knight, resolving now in the presence of his Ladies

Ladies kins-woman to shew the utmost effects thereof, gave the Giant two such mighty blows, that with the one he cut off his Leg, and with the other he quite killed him.

The Princess all this while beholding the Combat, and seeing the mighty blows Don Bellianis gave the Giant, could not imagine who it should be, and that so much worth and strength should remain in one single Knight, but well viewing his arms, she remembred him to be the Knight of the Basilisks, who had done such brave acts at Babylon for the relief of her Cousin the Princess Florisbella, and viewing her Picture on his Shield, she immediately cried out, Ah worthy Knight: pattern of all true Valor and Magnanimity, much am I bound to you for your great aid and assistance, and many thanks have I cause to render you for this so mighty deliverance in this my most extream necessity: Having thus said, she came near him to kiss his hands, but he refused that and kindly embracing her, said: Madam, it is time for us to return back to see in what condition the Prince your Brother is, and if occasion be to lend him my assistance: wherefore he caused her to mount on the Giants horse, and he mounting on his own, set forwards towards the place of the Combat, in which time she again thanked him for the aid he had afforded her, promising him to do him all the affairs of Love or friendship that she could, if he would please to come to the Souldan of Babylons Palace as he had formerly promised, telling him that she was now resolved to return back thither, and assuring him that the Princess Florisbella her Cousin had an extraordinary esteem for him, and expected his coming: and she assured him that she would endeavor to increase her good affection towards him.

Much joyed was Don Bellianis at this discourse, and thus they arrived at the place of Combat, where the two Giants and all their Knights were either slain or vanquished: Thus was this fight happily ended to the eternal honor of Don Bellianis.

The Damsels of the Princess presently applyed some Remedies to the Wounds of Don Bellianis his Knights, and then every one mounting his horse, they rid on: The Prince Baltasano was very thankful for this assistance, and promised Don Bellianis an eternal friendship, thus they Rode on together some-

time

time, till at length the Princess their brother were resolved not to proceed in their journy with so slight a guard, but to go back to *Babylon*, to which place they invited Don Bellianis, who made his excuses for the present, promising them that within a moneth he would not fail to wait upon them there: and thus after many several discourses, they coming to a way that went towards *Babylon*, they took their leaves of *Don Bellianis*, and parted thither-wards, leaving him and his Knights to travel to the City of Shyraz to meet with the Princess Persiana, and Duke Alfiron.

CHAP. XIV.

How *Don Bellianis* and his Knights overtook the Princess *Persiana*, Duke *Alfiron*, and the rest of the Company, and how they all entred into the City of *Shyraz*.

DOn Bellians and his Knights travelled so fast, that within three hours after they overtook their company, for the Princess and her Husband made but easie marches, and had stayed at a Town not far off to dinner: When Don Bellianis came before the Duke and the Princess, they asked him how he had sped in his enterprize: whereupon he gave them such an account, that they rested very well satisfied: they were now come within two leagues of Shyraz, and many of the Nobility had already come to them to give them the welcome, which they thankfully received.

After they had passed the Tapyrian Mountains, they came to a great River called Bradamir, which watereth the City, and afterwards falleth into the Persian Gulph with twenty miles circling about on the land: when they came near the City, it was the pleasantest thing in the World to behold, so stately a Building, twenty stately Temples appeared at one time, and the Pallace with its lofty Towers made an extraordinary splendor in the eyes of the Spectators. Infinite was the resort of the Plebeans that came out to behold their new King and Queen, and when they were a mile off from the City, the Chief Magistrates came out to do their homage to the King and Queen, and

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in this manner they entred the City, which is one of the most antient and famous through all that part of the World. Here Art Magick was first hatched. Here Nimrod, after the confusion of Babel, lived and was buried. Here Cirus the most excellent of Heathen Princes was born, and all but his head intombed. Here the great Alexander glutted his ambition and drunkenness. Here the first Sybilla sung our Saviours Incarnation. Hence the Magi are thought to set forth toward Bethelem, and here many Kings have swayed their Scepters: in fine it is a place defended by nature, inricht by trade, by art made lovely, the Vineyards, Gardens, Cypresses, and Temples, ravish the eye, and smell in every part sweet and delightful.

These excellent persons were received into this most delightsome place, with a great deal of solemnity and joy, and in all the principal places of that City, and all other places of the nation, they were immediately Proclaimed King and Queen of Shyraz, Lare, and Jaarown, Lord and Lady of Ormus, Maqueroon, Cermoen, Chusestam, Sigestan, and Farsestan, Prince and Princess of the Gulph of Persia, and of the Iles there. These were the titles, and great was the joy and acclamations of all that vast kingdom, which reaches above six hundred miles round about. If I should recite to you the many shews, pageants, and triumphant arches that were built, and the several congratulatory Speeches that were that day made to their new King and Queen, I should as much weary you with the reading, and my self with the writing thereof, as they were that day wearied with the hearing of them, and indeed they were so tedious, that although they came to the City by two of the clock afternoon, yet was it nine of the clock at night before they came to the pallace: whither they being arrived, they dismissed most of their subjects, and being much wearied they went to take their ordinary repose, which through weariness every one enjoyed except Don Bellianis whose desires were wholly fixed on the incomparable Florisbella, from whose presence he had been so long absent, that he was in great doubt of his reception into her service, but the promise that day made him by the Princess Matarot, did somewhat consolate his disturbed fancy. Thus spent he the whole night in continued contemplations till day appearing, he rose

and went to salute the King and Queen, and humbly besought them since he had seen them safely received into their Kingdom, they would be pleased to give him leave to depart about his more weighty affairs. This discourse much troubled them, hoping that they should enjoy his company for a longer season, but since he was so desirous to be gone, they prayed him that he would do them so much honor as to stay ten days longer, in which time they intended to be Crowned.

Don Bellianis not well knowing how to deny any thing to persons so obliging, consented to this Request, provided that as soon as the Solemnity was ended, they would no longer desire to detain him from his Adventures: To which they both engaged themselves, and thereupon that day the King issued forth his Commands to all persons concerned to repair to the Court on that day seven night, to assist at the Ceremonies which were accustomed at the Coronation, with free liberty for all Knights, as well Christians as Pagans, to go and come at the same time, and during their stay to shew their Valor and Manhood in Tilting, Jousting, and all other Knightly Exercises. This proclamation being sent abroad occasioned many Knights to resort to the Court, so that by the time prefixed for the Triumph, as well the fields adjoyning to the City, as the City it self was filled with Knights, so that it was a most delectable sight to behold, and most delicious to hear the sound of so many Warlike Instruments as was at that time heard. And the King caused certain Rayls to be made on the out-side of the City, within which the Knights were to Tilt and perform their Deeds of Knighthood, and caused a Throne to be placed there for himself and his Queen, and Seats for the rest of the Nobility, where they might sit and see the Tournaments: and he further ordained twenty Knights of his own, who were commanded by one Don Lorino Son to his Brother Don Gorino, a young and hardy Knight, to resist all strange Knights.

These things being thus ordained, all people with a great deal of impatience, till the appointed day for the Solemnity of the Coronation was come; which day being now come, there happened that which shall be declared in the chapter following.

CHAP

CHAP. XV.

How the Day of the Coronation being come, there entred into the Court a Knight, who termed himself to be *The Knight of the Island of Pearls*, and demanded the Kingdom of *Shyraz* as his right, and offered to defend his Title in single Combate against any one Knight; which Combate *Don Bellianis* undertook, and vanquished him, and of his departure for *Babylon*.

THe Kingdom of Shyraz, whereof the Duke Alfiron and the Princess Perfiana were now in possession, had for many years belonged to the Soudan of Persia, Father to the Princess, who had given the same to his Daughter, as hath already been declared: but wee have not yet told you how the Soudan of Persia came by the same.

So it was, that the Father of this Soudan onely had tribute for the same of one Gozmin, a valiant Knight, but the said Gozmin for some trayterous enterprize was dispossessed of the same: He being executed, and his sons for ever disenabled to possess the same, for a just reward of their fathers treason, and then the Soudan took the same into his own possession, and ever after that took the immediate Profits thereof to his own use, onely appointing a Governor there, whom he placed and displaced as often as he thought fit, and in this condition he left it to his Son when he died; who (as I told you) gave it freely to his Son in Law Duke Alfiron, as a Portion with his Daughter. Now this Gozmin left two Sons behind him, both valiant and stout Knights, the eldest whereof lived in an Island in the Persian Gulph, called The Island of Pearls.

The day being come wherein this great Ceremony of Crowning the King and Queen was to be performed, every one arose early either to assist at, or behold the Ceremony: The King and Queen being ready, mounted in a Triumphant Chariot, and by four Unicorns were drawn to the great Temple, where they being arrived mounted on a Scaffold prepared to that purpose, and then the Chief Flamin of the City, after the ordinary Ceremonies, placed two Crowns of Gold, enriched with many

pretious Stones of inestimable value on their heads, praying to the Gods to bless them with perpetual blessings, and blessing all their friends, and true and loyal Subjects, and cursing all such as were or should be their enemies. This Ceremony being performed, they both descended from their Thrones, and walking through the Temple remounted their Chariot, riding therein through the City with their Crowns on to the Court, where they were no sooner arrived, but the Tables were spread with all manner of delicious Viands that the Country could afford, many Healths going round the Table for the prosperity of the King and Queen. After Dinner was ended, before any person did arise from Table, the Herald at Arms (according to custome, did after the sound of an innumerable company of Trumpets) again proclaim the said Duke and Princess to be King and Queen of Shyraz, Larr, and Jaarown, Lord and Lady of Ormus, Maqueroon, Kermoen, Ghuseſtan, Sigeſtan, and Farseſtan, Prince and Princess of the Culph of Persia, and of the Isles there.

These words he pronounced twice, and at the end of every such Proclamation he said, if any one had any right to the same, or any part thereof, he bid them come forth and declare the same. This had been done twice, and the Herald was about to begin the third time, when a Knight armed in an azure Armor, commanded him to hold his peace; which he obeyed, and then the Knight going up to the place where the King and Queen sat, spake as followeth.

Duke Alfiron, for by no other name shall I own you: It is not unknown to most of the people here present, that my Title to this Crown of *Shyraz*, and all the Territories thereto belonging, is just and good, when they shall know that I am Son to the famous *Gozmin*, sometimes King of this place, I had long since expected that the Souldan would have restored me to my undoubted right, but since I see that he hath been so unjust as to give it away, I am to tell thee, that if thou wilt enjoy it, I must first be dead; and therefore I will thee presently to appoint a thy Champion to defend thy Title, and to enter into the Lists with me immediately, not questioning but the Gods will so far do me justice, that I shall be enabled to destroy thy Champion.

Having thus said, he held his peace: This Speech gave a wonderful

Wonderful astonishment to all the persons there present, and gave the King and Queen a sensible trouble to be thus interrupted in the midst of their Solemnity. The King answered That he was so well satisfied in the Justice of the Quarrel, that he was ready himself to enter the Field to vindicate his Right, but the Queen dissuaded him therefrom, not questioning but that they should find some other Champion.

Many Knights presently arose, and desired the King and Queen that they might have the Honor of the Combate, but the King was resolved not to venture his Title in the hands of any, but such a one as he should be very confident of his worth, Don Bellianis thinking himself obliged to do somewhat, was resolved to undertake the Combate, and therefore arising from his seat, desired the King and Queen to admit him to be their Champion, and to put the tryal of their Cause into his hands. The King would willingly have excused it, by reason of the many Obligations which he had already received from him: but Don Bellianis who was resolved not to be denyed, pressed them so hard, that at length they condescended. Whereupon he desired that the Combate might presently be performed. To which the other Knight willingly consented, and the place intended for the Jousts, was the place appointed for the Combate; to which place every one presently repaired, much wondring at the presumption of the Knight of the Island of Pearls, for so he was called, and was known to be the best Knight in all that Countrey.

Don Bellianis having Armed himself, presently repaired to the place appointed for the Combate, where when he came, he found the Knight of the Island of Pearls, and the King and Queen, and most of the Nobility seated near the Lists, to behold this Combate. Both the Combatants were armed with very good Armor, Don Bellianis being armed with that famous Armor enriched with Basilisks, and his Shield whereon was the Picture of the Princess Florisbella, and mounted on an excellent Horse. The other Knight was as well armed and mounted, when taking each of them a Launce, at the sound of the Trumpets they couched their Launces, and Don Bellianis with the great desire he had to hit his enemy, missed his encounter: but the other knight did not so, but hit his enemy so fiercely on the Shield, that Don Bellianis lost both his Stirrops, whereat he

he was so extreamly enraged, that throwing away his Launce without making any use thereof, he drew his Sword, which his enemy likewise did, and gave Don Bellianis a mighty blow on the Helm.

The Knight of the Island of Pearls having given his enemy two such notable strokes without receiving any, did certainly assure himself of the better of the Combate: but was quickly of another mind, when Don Bellianis being throughly enraged, lifting up his Sword, gave the Knight so mighty a blow, that he tumbled him down from his Horse: But he soon recovered his Legs and Sword, and went on to kill the Horse of his enemy, which Don Bellionis seeing, he quickly dismounted and assaulted his enemy with many strokes, which were returned with great strength. During the time of this Combate with the Knights, their Horses began a fierce Combate, for they ran violently against one another, and lifting up their fore feet wounded each other, and what they could not do, they performed with their teeth, biting one another in marvelous manner, to the great astonishment of the beholders. Thus continued they a good while, but in the end Don Bellianis his Horse caused the other to run away, which was taken notice of to be a good Omen to his Master, who in the mean time was not idle: But resolving so soon as this Combate was finished to be gone, therefore he did his utmost endeavor to vanquish his enemy, whom he had so wounded in severall places, that it was impossible for him to continue much longer. But Don Bellianis being much vexed at the tediousnels of the fight, lifting up his Sword very high, gave the Knight so great a stroke on the Helm. that it cut it in pieces, and wounded his head in such manner that he fell to the earth, when presently setting the point of his Sword to his Breast, he asked him if he would acknowledge the King and Queen to be his lawful Sovereigns? To which the Knight replyed, he would never consent to any such thing during his life. Whereupon Don Bellianis without any more a do, immediately cut off his Head, and then he went to the Herauld, and commanded him to go forward with his Proclamation, which he accordingly did in open field, with the general acclamations of many thousands of people who were there present.

Thus

Thus this Combate being ended, Don Bellianis went to the King and Queen, and desired them to give him leave to depart immediately, which they were very unwilling to do, but he telling them that he was confident that they would have no further service to employ him in; and that he would ere long return and visit them, they consented to his departure: but the King was very desirous for him to take some number of knights along with him, which he wholly refused: But the Queen offered him a Dwarf which she brought with her from her Fathers Court, whose service for the Queens sake he accepted, and so he presently departed on his Journey, in company of his own Dwarf and that which the Queen gave him, and they attended with all their Train, retired to the Pallace.

CHAP. XVI.

How *Don Bellianis* travelling to *Babylon*, met with a Damsel that was sent to finde him; and how he returned with her to the Souldans Pallace.

WIth great Joy and Content travelled the worthy Don Bellianis towards Babylon, being very earnestly desirous to arrive in the presence of his Lady, and in this manner he travelled two days without happening on any Adventure. The third day being mounted on Horse-back early in the morning he had not rid above an hour, contemplating on the divine Perfections of his most excellent Lady, and ruminating in his thoughts what service he should do that he might pretend to somewhat of her favor, and wishing for some extraordinary Adventure, that he might shew forth his worth, at length he met with a Lady attended with two Knights, who came riding on amain; They no sooner saw him, but the Lady who knew Don Bellianis by his Armor and Shield) immediately with excess of Joy cryed out, Oh most fortunate I that have so soon finished my Journey by meeting with the most Magnanimous and Valiant Knight that ever drew Sword, and that at such a time when there is the greatest need in the World!

At which words the Knight of the Golden Image much wondred, not knowing how he should be discovered in so strange a Countrey: But the Lady soon satisfied him of that doubt, by telling him that she belonged to the Princess Matarosa, and was one of those that was with her Mistress released from the power of the Gyant Alifer and his Companions, by the strength and power of his invincible arm.

Don Bellianis much wondring to see her, courteously asked her in what health her Lady was, and the cause of her travel. To this, Sir Knight, replyed she, I shall give you an answer, on condition that you forthwith go along with me to Babylon, and there present your self to my Mistris and the Princess Florisbella, and there receive such Orders from them as they shall give, to which Request he readily consented; whereforc they setting forwards on their Journey, the Lady began her Discourse as followeth.

Know then most valiant and redoubted Knight, that never since the Walls of Babylon was built by the brave Semiramis, was greater sorrow within that City then there is now, and never was there greater cause of mourning, for it is not a week since one of the greatest pieces of Treachery was committed that ever was heard of.

One day the Souldan, our Dread Lord, accompanied by his Empress Silviana, the Princess Florisbella, the Princess Matarosa my Mistris, and many other great Personages, having been a Hunting, were met by a grave Old Man and two Damsels, they were all three drawn in a Chariot, and coming near our company, they all made the most pitiful complaint in the world: The Souldan taking compassion on them, demanded what was the cause of their so great complaint: To which speech the old man replyed, that he being travelling to Babylon with those two Damsels and his Daughter, two Knights seeing his Daughter of admirable beauty, desired her company to abuse her, which she not consenting to, they endeavored to force her, and in the end notwithstanding all the resistance they could make, they drew her out of the Chariot, intending to execute their lusts upon her: but she resolving rather to dye than lose her honor, so long resisted them, that one of them most inhumanly

drew

drew his Sword, and gave her so great a wound on the head, that she immediately fell as dead to the ground, which they seeing, immediatly mounted there horses and departed leaving my poor daughter stretched along the grass strugling for life: In this manner we all remained making exceeding lamentations, when an old Matron coming by, and being told the occasion of our complaint, commanded us to bind up the wound, and lay her in the Chariot, telling us that she was not to be cured, but by one single touch of the fairest hand in the world, now sir, we are going to Babylon, to see if we can finde the person that shall cure this Lady.

The Souldan and his Daughter having heard this discourse, and seeing the Lady lie stretched along in the Charriot, presently were desirous to see where the wound was given, for which cause they both entred the Charriot, at which time the old man whipped his horses to make them go on, but they stirred not one jot; at which he much wondred, and the Princess coming to the body of the extended Lady, and touching her wound, she presenly lifted up her head, and opening her eyes heartily thanked the Princess for her cure, for by her touching the wound she was immediately cured. Much did the old man wonder, that not withstanding all he could do to the horses that drew the Chariot he could not get them to move one foot, but they stood as if their feet had been fixed to the ground: and as much was the Princess, and the rest of the company pleased with the finishing of the adventure, and therefore the Princess seeing there was nothing else to be done, descended from the Chariot, which she had no sooner done, but the horses that drew it immediately fell a running in a very violent maner not giving the Emperor leave to come out; which the Ladies and Knights seeing, were greatly abashed thereat, and the Empress commanded many of the Knights who were best mounted, to follow the Charriot and bring back the Souldan, but all their hast availed them nothing for the horses that drew the Charriot, ran with incredible swiftness, till they who pursued them quite lost sight thereof. Great was the lamentations and sorrow of the Empress, the Princess her Daughter, and all the rest of the spectators, not knowing what was become of the Souldan, but they still hoped that some

of the Knights would overtake the Chariot, but though all the company stayed there six hours, and all the Knights were returned, yet no news was brought of the Soudan, onely that the Chariot was gone out of their sight.

Great was the sorrow of the Empress and her Daughter, and all the rest of the company, but it growing late they were forced to go back to the City in much dolor; by the way as they went a Damsel came, and meeting the Empress gave her a Letter, and immediately departed. Which she greatly wondering at, caused the same to be immediately broken open, wherein was read as followeth.

The Letter of Bellona *to the Empress* Silviana.

MAdam, although it hath for many years been my greatest study and care to do all that I might for the preservation of you and your family, yet this late adventure could not be helped by me, and had not your Daughter been possessed of the Ring, which she sometime since received at the hands of the *Knight of the Basilisks*, she had fallen into greater danger of her person, then is now be fallen her Father, who is carried to such a place that it is impossible to release him, but by the best Knight in the world. Therefore Madam, rest your self contented, and be assured that he who gave your Daughter the Ring, is most capable of finishing this adventure. It will not be long before he arrives at your Court, and then if he travels to the *Caspian* Sea, he may give you and himself the satisfaction you desire.

Subscribed *Bellona*.

Much content and satisfaction did this Letter give to the Empress, and much more to her Daughter, considering the good she had received by your meanes, when she accepted of the Ring, and in this satisfaction they entred the City, and went to the Pallace, where they presently fell into consultation about what was necessary to be done: Some were of advice to expect

your

your coming to the Court, according to the tenor of the Letter from Bellona, but the Empress and her Daughter were so impatient to attend your coming, and therefore the Princess Matarosa having sometime before that given them an account how you had rescued her, they were very desirous to know which way you took when you parted from her: To which question she quickly answered, that you were then gone to Shyraz, but intended not to stay there long, wherefore they immediately hearing that I knew you by your Armor, commanded me in company of these two Knights, to seek you out: and this Sir Knight, was the occasion of my journey.

Don Bellianis rested much perplexed and amazed at the discourse he had heard; perplexed, that his Lady was in so great sorrow, but withal he was very glad that fortune still pointed out something for him to do, whereby he might in part express the zealous love and affection which he had towards his Princess, not estéeming any thing that he could do, though with the extreamest hazard of his life, a sufficient merit for the last favor that he should receive at the hands of his Lady. This discourse had held them a good part of the way, and they being come nér Babylon, they resolved to reach thither that night wherefore they made the greatest haste they could, so that before Sun-set they arrived in the City, and rode presently to the Court, where they were received by the Empress and her Daughter, and other great personages, as shall be related to you in the next Chapter.

CHAP. XVII.

How *Don Bellianis* arrived at the Soul'dan of *Babylons* pallace and how he was received by the Empress and Ladies, and of his discourses with the Princess *Florisbella* and *Matarosa*.

BEfore I tell you how Don Bellianis was entertained at the Pallace, it will be necessary to tell you what was become of the Soudan, The sage Friston, friend to Perianio, and enemy to Don Bellianis, being desirous to use the utmost of his Art to pleasure Perianeo, and knowing of the

great love that he bore to the Princess Florisbella, (as was related to you in the first Book of this History,) endeavor by means of the enchanted Tent, to get her into his possession; but hindred of his purposes by the sudden arrival of Don Bellianis, who by means of the Enchanted Sword and Armor that he had on, finished that Adventure to the disgrace and trouble of Fristone, he being himself wounded, his Tent vanishing away, and the Princess Florisbella saved: This misfortune vexed him so much, that he endeavored all that he could to be revenged, and therefore knowing that Don Bellianis would about this time come to Babylon, and be very likely to win the Princess, resolved to prevent him, and therefore caused that Chariot to be provided, and all other things which met the Souldan, as is declared in the fore going chapter, hoping to get her into the Chariot, and then assuring himself that when he lashed the horses, they would run so fast, that he needed not fear to be overtaken: Being thus furnished, he arrived neer Babylon, as is related in the fore going chapter, and having by his piteous discourse induced the Souldan and his Daughter to come into the Charriot, he was very joyful, but when he thought himself most sure he failed of his enterprize, by means of the Ring which Don Bellianis gave her, which had the power over all Enchantments; but so soon as she was descended from the Chariot, his Enchantments had their full power, and by that means he carried away the Souldan, as is already declared.

So long did they travel that at last they arrived at a riverside, and such power had Fristone with his spells, that the Souldan remained all this while in a Trance, whose body they took out of the Charriot and placed in a barque which lay there ready, and so having embarqued themselves, they presently set sail and sailed so long that they arrived in the Caspian Sea, which they crossed, and on the north part thereof landed in the Island, whither being come, they conveyed the body of the Souldan into a most strong Castle, and there Fristone put so strong a Guard upon him, that he though it invincible; in which place we must leave the Souldan to return to his Court at Babylon.

Don Bellianis being arrived there, as I have told you, he accompanied

companied with the Lady that conducted him entred into the presence of the Empress, who was at that time accompanied with her fair Daughter the Princess Florisbella, the Princess Matzrosa, the Prince of Numidia her Brother, and many other great personages. The Princess Florisbella was at that time attired in Purple Velvet beset with many Oriental Pearls, and a Crown of Gold and Jewels of mighty value on her head; but all her habit, though it was of an inestimable value, was but a foyl to set forth her rare personage: her eyes shining far brighter then all her Jewels, and indeed nothing did so well resemble them, as the pure light of the Sun, there came so many radiant beams from them, that Don Bellianis being approached the presence, and having pulled off his Helmet, was so blinded with the pure light that issued from them, that he was in a manner dazeled: and all her other parts were so perfectly rare, that Venus her self had she been there, would have blushed to have seen her self out-gone in beauty.

The Princess on the other side, having never till now seen the face of Don Bellianis, was so surprized with his manly beauty, that she concluded him to be the only Paragon in the world, and that all beauty and valor was worthily in that one person concentred.

The Lady who conducted him thither, seing that he continued silent, thus began: May it please your Excellent Highness, to behold an end of my Journey, for by the help of our Gods here is before you the person that shall so far content you, that you may certainly expect the deliverance of my Lord the Soudan in short time to be accomplished.

Don Bellianis being very sensible of the error he had run into by his silence, said to the company: Most excellent Princesses, what ever my mean labor can accomplish either in releasing the Soudan, or in any other Affair, assure your selves I shall be most willing to undertake it, & shall thank my good fortune if any thing I can do to the utmost hazard of my life, shall give you any pleasure; and therefore most illustrious Empress, give me the honor to be commanded by you, and I shall run to the accomplishment thereof, though it be to my certain death, and shall think that part of my life best bestowed, wherein I can in any manner please or content you.

The

The Empress having heard and beheld him, replyed: Noble Knight, your presence at this time is most acceptable, and we are so far obliged to you for your last company, and the hazard that you then underwent for the deliverance of our Daughter, that I cannot with modesty tell how to desire you to hazard your person any more for us: but since the Gods are pleased to place all their vertues within your bosom, and so to decree it that none but your self was born to assist us, I shall be thankful to the Gods for so providing a person, who may be rightly termed The deliverer of the House of *Babylon*, for without your help we should infallibly perish, and therefore good Sir Knight, repose your self for a few days, and then take such help for the accomplishment of this adventure as you shall think fit, and which the whole Empire will afford that you may once more restore a Husband to me a sorrowful wife, a Father to an afflicted daughter, and a Prince to his loving subjects.

Having thus said, she descended from her Throne, and came to the place where Don Bellianis was kneeling, and raising him from the ground, he humbly kissed her hands, and then went to the place where the Princess Matarosa sat, not daring as yet to go to the Princess Florisbella, and humbling himself on his knee he kissed the hand of the Princess Matarosa, saying to her: Madam, when I last left you, I gave you my word that I would e're long wait upon you at this place, to obey your commands, and in order thereunto I was coming hither, when the Lady met me and relating to me the misfortune of the Soudan, which hath given me a very sensible affliction to see that any thing should give a trouble to such divine personages as are here present: But Madam, assure your self, that I will imploy all the remaining part of my life in finishing this adventure, but I will give you the contentment you expect and desire in the presence of the Soudan. Matarosa, who was sensible of the love and affection that the Princess her Cousin had for the valiant Don Bellianis, and being resolved to pleasure her, said: Dear Cousin, you need not question the performance of this adventure, since it is put into the hands of such a Knight whose worth I am very well satisfied, and without whose aid I had e're this time been in my grave: for I would certainly have given my self a violent

death

death, rather then have consented to the lubidinous desire of that monstruous Giant who had me in his possession. The Princess Floridella now thought it fit for her to speak, and therefore she said, I am so well satisfied in the worth of this Knight, that I question not the performance of any thing he will undertake, and I have had so sufficient proofs both of his judgement and valor, that I have found the effects to be such, that I am much engaged to him therefore, and I my self had either bin a prisoner or worse twice ere this but for him, for which two remarkable Services I am till bound to him, and shall alway acknowledge my self his debtor, both for the service he did me, and for the precious token he left with me, without which I had now been in company of my Father, and therefore none hath more cause to esteem of his vertue then my self: and then turning her self towards him, she said: Assure your self, Sir Knight, that I esteem my self more bound to you then to all men living, and shall always acknowledge it, and next unto my parents I shall be always ready to be disposed of by your commands.

She having thus finished her discourse, Don Bellianis was almost ravished with delight, and humbly kissing her fair hand, and fetching a great sigh, he replyed: Ah dear Madam, all that I have yet done for you, or shal be able to perform the remaining part of my life, is already sufficiently recompensed by this immense favor you have so prodigally bestowed in the humblest of your servants. He would have proceeded, but that the Prince of Numidia came then to him, and humbly thanking him for the aid he had lent him in releasing him and his Sister from the Giant Altifer, and so he led him from the Ladies, into the company of several Knights that were here present, who much honored him for the worth they understood him to be endued withall.

Thus he spent some time in this company till it was time to disarm himself, which when he had done, the Princess Mastarosa sent him a rich Mantle, and by the messenger that brought it, she desired that he would not fail to let her have the happiness of his company some time that evening: To which message he returned answer, That he would not fail to wait

on

on her. Most of the evening he spent complementing the Knights of the Court, and they in shewing him the rarities and novelties thereof, and there he with great wonder and amazement beheld the pleasant Gardens and Fountains there, having spent much time in walking, he at length desired the Prince of Numidia to shew him his lodging, which he did accordingly, and as he walked thither the Prince told him which was the Souldans, and which was his Sisters, and which was the Princess Florisbella's. Now the Princess Mattarosa's, and the Princess Florisbella's were adjoyning together, and his lodging was not far from either of them at which he was very well pleased: Having thus spent much time he again went into the Presence, where was the Empress, her Daughter, and Kinswoman, and many other Ladies; and thus they spent much of that evening in several discourses, at last every one withdrew to their several appartments. Don Bellianis remembring the Message he had received from the Princess Mattarosa, appointed his Dwarf Ordino to attend her going to her Lodging, and to take notice of some one of her Damsels, which the Dwarf performed, and his Master being retired into his chamber and alone, he came to him and told him that the Princess was now in her Chamber with no other company but two of her Damsels: Don Bellianis therefore commanded the Dwarf to go thither and tell one of her Damsels that he desired to speak with her Lady, and when he should come into her presence to present his service to her and let her know that he waited her commands. The Dwarf soon executed his message, and returned to his Master, and told him that the Princess expected his coming to her Lodging, he therefore immediately left his own Chamber and went to her, where she received him with a great deal of freedom, and causing him to sit down by her, she thus began.

Sir Knight, the great favor you did me in releasing me from the power of the Giant, is so deeply engraven in my breast, that all that I can do for you through the whole course of my Life, I shall esteem too little for a recompence, and if you remember when I then parted from you, I desired your company here, that it might be in my power to do somewhat to gratifie you, if therefore you know any thing wherein I may pleasure you, speak

boldly

boldly and freely, and let me know it, for the time you have to stay here being not long, an opportunity of doing it service may soon be overslipt. Don Bellianis having attentively listned to this discourse, did much marvel thereat, wondring what the issue thereof would be: but while supposing that this fortune might so fall out, that she her self might be in love with him, at which he would have been much discontented, and then anon a while supposing that she might do him some greater kindness in his love to the Cousin, he was therefore resolved to try her mind, and after some pause he thus began.

Madam, if I have done you any service, it was no more then I was bound to do by the Order of Knighthood: besides it hath been already sufficiently recompensed by this your acknowledgement, wherefore you will no longer indebted to me for that: but there is one thing Madam, wherein you may greatly pleasure and oblige me of new to be your humble servant. It is now Madam, some years since I received the Order of Knighthood, and with it a suit of Armes which I have since lost, only I have preserved the Shield that belonged thereto, not for any personal worth therein, but only for the sake of a Picture that is therein pourtrayed. I do believe that you have seen it, and may remember that it hath some small resemblance with the Princess your Cousin, and in love to her sake alone have I kept it, and under the Name of the Knight of the Golden Image have I gone curious, and have won many Combates thereby, so that whatever Act I have done worthy of remembrance may be wholly attributed to her Vertue, this hath caused me now twice to come to this Court, not as yet daring to give her any notice of my desires, many thereof if you are pleased to do me any further friendship, let it be this, to desire her to be pleased to admit me to be her Knight, and then I question not but I shall be sufficiently able to perform any Enterprise, though never so difficult and perilous.

Don Bellianis having thus finished his discourse, the Princess was fully satisfied that in doing him a courtesie, she should likewise please her Cousin, whose mind she knew very well, but like a discreet vertuous Lady, she was resolved to know what Parentage he was of, and whether that disproportion would not hinder that which they so much desired, and therefore she thus replied:

Noble Sir, I give you many thanks for your fricness with me, and assure your self that in this matter I shall execute your will that you shall have your desires, provided that you engage me in nothing that may be a blemish to the Honor of my fair Cousin, and therefore Sir, I pray tell me who gave you the Honor of Knighthood, that if I be demanded that Question by my Cousin, I may be provided with an Answer. To this he soon replyed, He who gave me the order of Knighthood was as then unknown to me, and so was I then to him, but since I knew him to be the Emperor of Greece. Then Sir, quoth the Lady, I question not but he was satisfied that by birth you were worthy of it. Ah Madam, said he, he was then told that I was of Noble Linage by a Lady that was present: but since he hath known me, and I him better, for indeed he is my Father. Then recounted he to her the maner of his first Adventures and how he was Knighted by his Father, and how afterwards did fight with him, as it is at large set down in the First Part of this excellent History.

This Discourse so well satisfied the Princess, that she told him that since he had been so free to her, as to tell her his greatest secrets, she would in recompence thereof tell somewhat that would give him equal content, and thereupon she said: Sir Knight, I do, now assure you that you may account your self happy in your love, for the Princess Florisbella my Cousin is altogether amorous of you as you are of her, and hath been as desirous to discover the same, as you your self, and therefore so carry your self in this business, that what ever you do may redound to the honor of you both, and to the end that you may receive the same satisfaction from her own mouth. I will immediately go into her Chamber and bring her hither. At which words Don Bellianis fell on his knees to the ground and strainly embracing her legs, he said: Ah dear Madam, what thanks, what services, what returns shall I make for this extraordinary favor: But she knowing that a little time would be soon lost, got from him, and leaving him in this extasie, went into the chamber of her Cousin, where she had not stayed long but she returned with her Cousin in her company, who now being undressed, was attired in a Mantle of Crimson Velvet, and such other Garments, that Juno in all her Bravery did not appear half so stately nor Venus when she courted Adonis was not half so lovely: when they

came

came into the Chamber, they found the Knight on his knees, his extasie of Joy had been so great, wherefore the Princess Mattarosa taking her Cousin by the hand, led her to him, saying: Behold here, Madam, the best Knight in the world prostrate on his knees, expecting from your lips the gracious favor of your admitting him to be your Knight, Arise most noble Prince, answered the Princess, for so my Cousin informs me you are, and indeed it could not be expected that so great Perfections of Valor, Magnanimity and true Vertue, should abide in the breast of any one but the greatest Prince in the world.

At these words Don Bellianis humbly kissing her hand arose, and then the Princess Mattarosa caused them both to sit down: when they were sate the Princess Florisbella demanded of him how he performed the Adventure of setling her Cousin Aurora in possession of her Kingdom; for said she I hear that she is bound to you for that favor, then he Recounted to her all that happened in that Adventure, how he killed her usurping Enemy Don Gallaneo, and the many hazards he ran thorough when he went disguised in the Apparel of one of her Damsels, and how at last he procured the Souldan of Persia to Confirm her in her Kingdom, and then said he, Madam, I had gone along with her to have seen her setled therin, but that the remembrance of your divine Beauty, was as attractive to my heart as the Loadstone to the Needle, which caused me to leave that Charge to two of my Brethren, and some other of my Friends, to apply my self hither to wait upon my Commands, And said the Princess Mattarosa, it was most happy for us both that you went not thither; for I had ere this perished without the assistance you brought me, and the Princess my Cousin had still wanted one to undertake the Redemption of her Father.

Ah most noble Lady, replyed he, I see now that Fortune and my good Stars have brought me, some sweet with much of bitter I have hitherto run thorough, in that they have given me some opportunity of testifying to you my service, in which point I wish my Destinies will still continue me to my lives end, for it will be the greatest good that can come to me, to spend the remainder of my life in the service of so Divine Personages, and therewith he took the fair Hand of his Mistriss, and amorously kissed it. In these terms continued these Lovers for two or three hours, an

then they gave to each other such assured Testimonies of their loves, that it endured for ever.

The Princess signified much so row that he was to depart in so short time, to hazard his person in so great perils, but he assured her, that since she thought him worthy of being hers, he did not question but to overcome all difficulties, and in short time return with her Father. Than she desired him to take some company with him, that he might be the better enabled to perform his Enterprize: but he refuses that, desiring to perform it himself, that the Souldan her Father might be obliged to none for this Deliverance but to him onely, that thereby he might have the more cause to grant him what he should afterwards desire of him.

But the Princess Mattarosa knowing that her Brother the Prince of Numidia intended to accompany him in this Adventure, perswaded him that since the Journey was long, and that he was to travel on the Caspian Sea to some uncertain place there, that he would not refuse his company, which he at last assented to. Thus having spent much of the night in these Discourses, after the two Lovers had given each other new Obligations of Promises of an everlasting Love and Friendship, they every one with great silence departed to their severall Lodgings.

CHAP. XVIII.

How *Don Bellianis* had a second Conference with the Princess *Florisbella* and her Cousin *Mattarosa* and how he, after he had taken his leave of the Ladies, departed in quest of the Souldan, accompanied with *Baltasar* Prince of *Numidia*.

The satisfaction the two Lovers received in the Evenings Conference, occasioned them to take but little rest that night: never was *Don Bellianis* so contented as now, all his Travels, Combates, Conflicts and bloody Fights, he accounted as nothing, and that they were all more than fully recompensed by the kinde and loving Discourse he had received that evening from his Princess. These thoughts accompanied him all night so that he slept not at all, but still ruminated in his minde how he should conceive his good fortune, and how he should give so good a satisfaction to the

Souldan

Souldan, that he might be willing to accept of him for his Son in Law. These thoughts took up all the night, so that morning coming the Prince of Numidia came to his Chamber to give him the Good Morrow, whereupon he presently arose, and very lovingly received him.

After he had apparelled himself, he left his Chamber, and walked with the Prince in the Garden, where the Prince told him that he had one Boon to beg of him, & therefore prayed that he might not be denyed. Don Bellianis answered, that he might freely ask any thing of him, for he took it as an honor if he could pleasure him in any thing. Then the Numidian Prince told him that the Request he was to make was this, That he would be pleased to permit him to have the honor to attend him in this Intended Expedition, for, said he, I cannot but acquire much honor and renown in being in the presence and company of so brave and worthy a Knight.

Don Bellianis who had already promised his Sister that he would permit him to go with him, told him, that he could not acquire any fame in his company, but however if he would give himself that trouble, he should be glad of his good company. The Numidian being very glad that he had granted his Request, gave him many thanks, and told him he should esteem his life happy so long as he had the enjoyment of his good society, and said he hoped, that having so good a Pattern both of Chivalry and Virtue, he did not question but he should profit himself very much thereby.

In these Discourses they continued some time till all the Court was risen, but it was somewhat late before the two Princesses arose, they having sate up so late the night before, that it was Soon before they came into the Presence Chamber being come, the Tables were covered and every one sate down to dinner: Don Bellianis could eat but little for observing the rare Perfections of his Divine Princess who was seated just against him, who attired her self in most sumptuous manner, that her Clothes might give some luster to her Beauty: but although she was habited in an extraordinary manner, yet her face and person appeared like the Sun, and they like clouds that obscured her other beauties. She often cast amorous glances at her Knight, and seeing his eye still fixed on her she was often moved to blush.

Dinner.

Dinner being ended and every one risen, the Empress taking, Don Bellianis by the hand, said to him: Sir Knight, I am very sorry that so unfortunate occasion hath happened that will suddenly cause us to lose your good company, but I hope that with the Assistance of the Gods, your incomparable Valor and the continual good fortune that still accompanies you, will put an end to all our troubles, and therefore that you may go provided with all things necessary for so hazardous an Expedition, I have ordered the Council to sit this Afternoon, to know of you what you shall think necessary, that it may be provided accordingly, To which he replyed, All that I desire, Madam, is onely the company of the Prince of Numidia, and I question not but my good fortune will soon bring me to the place where I shall be enabled to serve you: But she desired to confer with the Council of this matter, in order to which that Afternoon he went to them, and they proposing to raise a great Army, and a Navy of Ships proportionable to receive them, and so with this power under his Command, to search all the Caspian Sea, but he utterly refused that Offer, and only desired that one ship might be ready at the Sea-side to receive him against his coming, and he told them he [illegible] to be going within three days. They not willing to [illegible] his reasons, and much less to offend him, answered, that his will should in every thing be performed, and so they took order accordingly.

Thus did he spend two days in the greatest content and satisfaction in the World, still accompanyed by the Prince of Numidia and by that means he had the opportunity with him of courting the Princess his Cousin with the greater freedom, sometimes they walked in the pleasant Walks and Gardens of the Pallace, and at other times they went abroad in the Fields to divert themselves in all which time he endeavoured by his most ordinary actions, to let her see the esteem he had of her Vertues. The night before he was to depart he took the opportunity to speak to the Princess Natalofa, humbly desiring her that since his time was so short that he was to depart the next day, she would do him the favor to speak to the Princess Florisbela to give him the happiness of her Company in the Chamber, that he might take his farewel of her, to which his request she soon consented.

So Evening being come, and every one retired to their several

Lodgings,

Lodgings, he attended not long before one of the Princesses Damsels came to his Chamber, to advertise him that the two Princesses were together and expected him; He thereupon very joyfully went to the Chamber where they were and prostrating himself on his knee, he humbly kissed her hand, but she not permitting it caused him to arise, and seating her self by him, said unto him:

Worthy Sir, Since it hath pleased the Heavens to put so great a cross upon us, as so soon to part us, I beseech you by the friendship and love that you have so zealously professed to me, that you will not only make all the expedition you can in returning back from this Adventure, but also do the best you can to secure your person, not thrusting your self into any unnecessary hazard; for know Sir, that since you are become my Knight, I resolve to keep such a strict power over you, that I shall not be won to consent that you shall do any thing to endanger your person, and were it not on so necessary an occasion, I should not give you leave to depart.

Having said thus, she hung down her head and fetched a deep sigh expressing by that the sorrow she took for his departure, wherefore he thus replyed to her:

Gratious Madam, Since it hath pleased you to give your self so much trouble to have some care of my unworthy person, I shall endeavour in this, as well as in all other things, to obey your commands, assuring you that this Adventure being finished, I shall immediately return back, and shall not hereafter undertake any Adventure without your leave first obtained, not questioning but I shall be able to perform whatsoever I shall begin, through the mighty assistance I have received by being under your protection.

Thus did these two Lovers discourse with one another, sometimes embracing each other: and Don Bellianis knowing that he was to be gone the next day, took more freedom than ordinary, and Ravished from her lips many amorous kisses, which to him were more pleasant than Nectar and Ambrosia, or the food of the Gods. Thus spent they much time, and would have continued their amorous discourses longer, but that the Princess Mattarosa caused them to break off and depart, which they at last very unwillingly consented to: Thus at length they retired to their several Lodgings and went to Bed, taking their ordinary repose.

The

The morning being come, Don Bellianis arose early to put all things in order for his departure, but he had not been long up before the Prince of Numidia and two of his Knights came to wait on him in his Lodging, but not finding him there they walked into the Garden where they found him, and there the Prince of Numidia told him that he was ready to go with him whithersoever he should appoint him, but told him that he humbly begged him to permit those two Knights to go in their company. Don Bellianis who was unwilling to deny him any thing he should ask, at length at the intreaty of the two Knights themselves consented, and thereupon he bid them be ready, for that afternoon he intended to set forward on his Journey, they resting very well satisfied, and prepared all things accordingly.

Thus Dun being come and Dinner ended he took his farewel of the Empress, the Princess Florisbella, and the Princess Mattarosa, and all the rest of the Court. The Princess Florisbella gave him a new Shield, wherein was her own Picture drawn to the life, and richly guilded, whereby he went by the Name of the Knight of the Golden Image. The Prince of Numidia was armed in an Azure Armor, and in his Shield he had a Boars-head; he having formerly killed a monstrous Boar, and therefore he was called the Knight of the Boar. The other two Knights were armed in White Armor, they being new Knighted: the one, who was amorous of the Princess Mattarosa, had Hope painted in his Shield, and the Princess gave him a Scarf as a Favor from her, and the other had a flaming Sword painted on his Shield, because when he was Knighted it was with a Sword that resembled a Flame.

Being thus most richly armed and gallantly mounted, after several Complemental expressions had passed between many of the Courtly Knights, and Don Bellianis and his Companions, wishing them a prosperous success in their intended Journey, they took their leave of all the fair Ladies, and only attended by Don Bellianis his two Dwarfs, they left Babylon and journied towards the Caspian Sea.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

How *Don Bellianis* and his Companions travelled to the *Caspian Sea*, and how there they embarqued themselves in quest of the Souldan of *Babylon*.

THree days travelled Don Bellianis and his Companions without meeting with any Adventure, and indeed he was not at all discontented therat, for he was resolved to obey the Commands of his Princess, and avoid all things that might hinder his Journey: wherefore they travelled very hard, till within one days Journeys of the *Caspian Sea*, they saw before them several Knights and Ladies journeying together, but he being desirous to avoid all company, rode on without saluting them; whereupon a Damsel riding after him, said, I am come from one of those Ladies yonder, who say that he who gave you the Order of Knighthood did not do well, in that he did not instruct you in your duty to Ladies when you meet them, and therefore desires if you be not in great haste that you, or some of your company, would break a Lance with some of her Knights, to the end she may know whether you are better furnished with valour than with courtesie.

Don Bellianis being somewhat troubled at this Message, replyed, That his haste would not permit him to give her that satisfaction which she desired, but the Knight of the flaming Sword who was in his company, desired him to permit him to break a Lance with one of the Knights, to which Don Bellianis at last consented, so that after that they should not be enjoyned to any further stay, to which the Damsel consenting, departed. She was no sooner come to her Lady and delivered her Message, but one of her Knights advanced towards them, which the Knight of the flaming Sword seeing, took a Lance and went to meet him. They ran couched their Lances and met each other with so much vigor, that they both lost their Stirrops and broke their Lances, when taking new ones, at the next encounter the Ladies Knight meant to have let him on the earth, and the Knight of the flaming Sword was forced to get hold of his Horses neck to save himself from falling.

No sooner was this done, but out came another Knight, and desired since the Knight of the flaming Sword was well nigh down, that the Knight of Hope would try his fortune with him: To which he consented, and thereupon they both couching their Lances, the Knight of Hope performed so well that the Ladies Knight measured his length on the earth, and so he served two more, but at last when he was running with the fourth Knight his Horse tumbled, and they both fell on the earth.

Then the Knight of the Boar stepping forwards, ran against the Knight who had dismounted the Knight of Hope, and turned him off from his horse: and of ten Knights there remained four who had not tryed their Valor, but he running against them dismounted them also.

Don Bellianis seeing there was no more to be done, sent his Dwarf to the Lady to present his service to her, and bid him tell her, that the next time she expected to compel Knights to Courtesie, she must provide her self with more valiant Defendants, which the Dwarf having done they all departed.

Thus did they travel on their Way all that day till they came near to the Sea-side, where they took up their Lodgings for that night on the shore. No sooner was the Sun gotten up into the Firmament, but our Knights all arose, and Arming themselves went to the Sea-side, where they met with their Ship, and presently they embarqued themselves and horses, and having a fair Wind they set Sayl and departed.

Long time sayled they about this Sea, coasting the Countrey, and landing in several places to enquire after news of the Soudan but all was in vain. One day a great Calmuels happening, they sayling very slowly, descried a Ship from afar off sayling thitherwards, wherefore command was given to the Mariners to bear up to them, which was done with all the expedition they could. When they came near the Ship they heard the voice of a Woman who made great lamentation: At which noise Don Bellianis wondring, caused them to call aboard to them, when presently two great Gyants armed at all points but their heads, demanded what they requirede The Numidian answered, That they desired to know the cause of the lamentation that they heard. The

Gyants

Gyants seeming very angry at his demand, replyed, That they might meddle with their own affairs for that did in no wise concern them.

Don Bellianis hearing these proud speeches, commanded the Ship to go nearer to the other and grapple with her, which was done accordingly, & the Gyants clapping on their Helmets, drew their mighty Symetars to hinder the entrance of the Knights, who by the example of Don Bellianis, were all provided to assail the Gyants in their own Ship: but our Knights so layd about them, that one of the Gyants was soon laid along the Ship. At this noise ten well armed Knights who were below, came up, & drawing their Swords went to assail our Knights, who defended themselves very bravely, and Don Bellianis so stoutly laid about him, that he soon dispatched four of them, and threw their bodies into the Sea: which the Gyants seeing made up to him, and gave him so fierce a blow on the Helmet, that he was astonished, & forced to lay both his hands on the side of the Ship to raise himself up: but he was no sooner got on his feet but he quickly revenged that blow, and gave the Gyant such a return, that lighting on his head he cut he Helmet quite in two pieces, and also his Head was cleaved down to the Jaws.

Thus this Gyant being dispatched, he turned him about to help his Companions, but he saw they had behaved themselves so well that they had either killed or vanquished all the Gyants Knights, wherefore he puting up his Sword, commanded the Mariners to conduct him to the place from whence they heard the noise, which they did acordingly: and being come thither saw a Damsel who made great lamentation, but he demanded of her the cause of her Complaint, she arose, and seeing him knew him by his Armor, when falling on her knees, she said: Ah most courteous Knight! I now know that I am released from the slavery and bondage I was going to having met with you, Don Bellianis knew not the Damsel, wherefore raising her from the ground, he demanded of her how she knew him. To which she replyed, I am confident Sir Knight, that I am not mistaken in my knowledge of you, for without doubt you most needs be the valiant Prince Don Bellianis of Greece, of whose Prowess and Merits I am sufficiently acquainted: wherefore know Sir, that I belong to the

sage Bellona our very good Friend, who understanding of the Enterprize that you were going about to release the Emperor, and knowing that all the skill and art that your Mariners could use would not be to any purpose, for it is impossible to find out the place where he is kept without her help, she therefore sent me to conduct you thither: and commanding me to go towards the Court of the Souldan of Babylon to meet you, I being on my way thither, was met by these two Giants and Knights, whom you have happily dispatched, who seeing me alone forced me to go aboard with them, and whither they would have carryed me I am uncertain, but thanks to your valor I am released from that peril.

Don Bellianis having heard this Relation, was very glad that he should now be able to find the place whither he was to go, and therefore thanked the Damsel very kindly for the pains and peril she had undertaken for his sake; and thereupon he caused her to go out of that Ship into his own, where she was no sooner come, but she espying the Numidian Prince, began to renew her lamentations: at which they all wondring, asked her the cause of her sudden sorrow: to which she replyed, Ah, Sir Knight, when I came from my Mistress she gave into my custody a Sword, which she commanded me to present to her Couzin Baltasano, which she told me he would ere long stand in need of, for it had so hidden a vertue that it would make its way through any Armor, though it were enchanted, and told me that next to the Sword which you had it was the best in the world, and these two Giants when they took me, forced the Sword from me, and what they have done with it I know not.

The Numidian Prince hearing of this was much troubled, fearing lest it should be lost or thrown into the Sea with some of the dead Knights, wherefore he and the Damsel immediately went into the Ship to search for it: so after a little search they found it in one of the Cabins of the Giants, at which he was very glad; and so returning into the Ship of Don Bellianis, they shewed it to him, and the Sword was very plain, only the Hilt was made of entire Emerald.

This being done they desired the Damsel to direct them to the place where the Souldan remained: but she told them that if they would take her directions, they must first sayl to the Mouth of the

River Araxis, and being there she then knew how to conduct them. They having heard this commanded the Mariners to obey her command, which they forthwith did, and let sayl for the River Araxis. In few hours they came thither, and having informed the Damsel thereof, she advised with the Master of the Vessel, and told him that he must sail cross the Sea directly northward, which he accordingly did: thus they leaving the Gyants Ship behind them, sayled cross that great Sea.

Don Bellianis being very impatient of their delays, thinking that every day he had bin absent from his Princess to be a year, and therefore he discoursed with the Damsel of many matters during the Voyage, that he might pass away the time the better: And she told him that her Mistress had given her no account of the particular dangers that he was to undergo in that Adventure, but said that it was the most perilous that he ever undertook; for the sage Friston who had placed the Soudan there, had used his utmost skill in his Enchantments, that he might still continue him there a prisoner, but she said that you with the help of the Numidian Prince, should be able by your great skill and valor, to put an end to all the Enchantments, and deliver the Soudan.

CHAP. XX.

How *Don Bellianis* and the Knights his Companion, landed on an Island in the *Caspian Sea*, where the Soudan was kept prisoner by Enchantment: and how *Don Bellianis* and the Prince of *Numidia*, after they had fought with many monstrous Gyants and Serpents, ended the Enchantment.

LOng had they not sayled before they descried Land, and coming near they found that there were close by several small Islands, in one of which they saw a fair Castle whereupon Don Bellianis supposing that to be the place where the Soudan was, as indeed it was, he caused them to make to shore, but as they were approaching the shore they saw several Sea Monsters with much fierceness approach the Vessel, and make a hideous noise: The two young Knights with their Swords in their hands, went down out of the Ship into the Shallop to get

to shore, but these Monsters so laid about them that they soon overturned the Boat, and had not the Mariners immediately thrown out Ropes the two Knights had been drowned.

Don Bellianis seeing this, and that these Monsters would endeavor to hinder his landing, and seeing that the shore was so shelving, that it was impossible for the Ship to come so near it as to land him, taking his Sword in his hand he threw himself into the Sea, where he was assaulted by these Monsters who came all about him, but he being well skilled in swimming, did so bravely behave himself that in despight of them he got to land, killing one of them at every stroke he struck. By his example the Numidian Prince followed him, but with very great peril of his life, for he was marvelously assaulted, but at last having killed many of them with his sword, he got to shore.

The Knight of Hope seeing this, resolved to do the like, but he failed in his Enterprize; for many of these Monsters came about him, and in despight of him bit him in many places, and not withstanding he struck at them with his sword, yet it did no more execution upon them than if he had struck upon an Anvile, for his Sword had not the vertue in it to withstand Enchantments, wherefore by the advice of the Damsel he came back again to the Ship, where he and all the rest were forced to stay, not being able to land.

Thus these two Knights by the help of their pure-cutting Swords got on shore, but they were unarmed, wherefore they caused them in the Ship to thrust their Armes out as far as they could towards the shore, where they took them up and armed themselves: But there was no way how they could get their Horses on shore, at which they were much troubled; but Don Bellianis seeing that the Castle was not far off, hoped he should have no great occasion of them; wherefore commanding them in the Ship to wait their coming thither again, they departed and marched right on to the Castle. When they came near it, they saw that it was marvelous strong, being seated on a Rock, and though they walked round about it, they could not find any way to enter into it. At last they espied a Cave, but the entrance into it was like a Well, for it was down-right, and they supposed it to be a Well, but that there was no water in it: Whereat thinking that that was the way into the Castle, they cut down one of the tallest Trees thereabouts,

and

and Don Bellianis causing the Numidian to hold the one end of it, was let down into the Cave, but it reached not to the bottom, wherefore he was forced to take a great leap, and so he fell to the ground sore bruised with the fall, and before he could well get up he was assaulted by two great hideous Serpents, who ran upon him & trampled him under their feet, but he soon arose, and wounded them most piteously, whereupon they again came upon him, and gave him such lashes with their monstrous tayls that it cracked his Armor, but he waiting his opportunity cut off their tailes, so that they could not offend him that way and they making a hideous noise, coming on him to be revenged, he cut off both their Heads at one blow, After he had done this, he walked on, and perceiving some light went further, and saw before him a Court-yard, and in it a Fountain, at the foot whereof were two mighty Dragons, who no sooner saw him approaching, but they run to assault him: He taking his Buckler in his hand, and fast grasping his Sword, cut the wing of one of them, which caused him to make a hideous noise, and the beast finding himself wounded, ran upon Don Bellianis and catching hold on him threw him on the ground, and with his Tallons grasped him so hard, that he was very much wounded, and the other likewise caught hold on him with his teeth, and bit him by the thigh: at which he finding himself in great peril, arose, from the ground, and thrust his Sword down the throat of one of these Monsters, cleaving his heart in twain so that he fell down dead. The other Dragon was now got upon the back of our Knight and pulled him down backwards, but he nimbly got from the ground, gave the Dragon such a blow that he cleaved his Head in two.

When he had done this he sate down, being so faint with the loss of blood that he could hardly stand, after he had taken the air a little he walked about the Court-yard and there he found a Basket and a long Rope tyed to it, wherefore pondering with himself what use that should be for, he believed that with it he might draw the Numidian Prince up into the Castle, and so walking about he saw a Pair of Stairs which went up to the Battlements of the out Wall of the Castle, where he being come saw the Prince walking about the Grove, prying whither he might find any place to get into the Castle, Don Bellianis seeing this called to him, and told him if that he would come in to him, he would help him up by that Rope and Basket, to which he readily assented, and so

so letting of it down, he drew him up accordingly.

When they were come down into the Court-yard, he perceived that Don Bellianis had not been idle, for he saw the two Dragons that were slain, at which they much admired, and so they passed forwards, when coming to a great gate they saw a small Horn, which one of them having sounded, the Gates flew immediately open: but as they went to enter, there was two mighty Gyants opposed themselves to forbid them, and taking up their mighty Battel-Axes, laid many strokes on the two Knights, but they who were undaunted repaid them with many weighty blows: and Don Bellianis being angred that as yet he could not see to what end all this should come, with one blow cut off the Gyants leg, and so he fell to the ground, at which he went to him and cut off his Head.

Having so done he went to assist Numidia, but he saw that he had likewise killed the other Gyant, for being fresh, he laid about him so that he had slain him without receiving any wound, but one in the arm.

Thus these two friends having finished this Combate, went forwards and entred into a brave Hall paved with Marble and supported with severall Pillars of Jasper: walking about here they saw a Door that led them into a Garden where were many pleasant Walks, among the rest one led them to a Mault, at the door of which they saw an Inscription thus written:

They who shall have so great prowess as to kill all the Guards, and Pass hither, shall yet fail in their expectations, unless the Fire that is here preserved be Put out, which being done, this Enchantment shall end.

The Knights having read this, were somewhat satisfied that they knew what would put an end to this Adventure, and therefore they resolved to use their utmost power to accomplish it: but they knew not how to enter this Cave, the door being very strong: searching further they saw another door belonging to the same Cave, and a Bell hanging thereto, which they rung and then the door opned, and their they saw a small Fire in the middle of the Cave: As soon as they were entred they were al-

saulted

saulted in marvellous manner, but they could not see by whom; they felt many mighty strokes, so that sometimes they were driven to fall down on their knees, but they could not see any body that gave them, and it was in vain to use their Swords, for they cut nothing but the Air, at which they both marvelled. And the Numidian Prince understanding by the Inscription that they had read, that the quenching of that Fire gave an end to the Enchantment, he left Don Bellianis and went out of the Cave to the Fountain which they had seen in the Court-yard, and taking off his Helmet, intended to fetch some Water from thence, but when he was come near the Fountain, and went to dip his Helmet therein for Water, there issued out of the Water a fierce Crocodile, and flying in his face wounded his head, so that he bled extreamingly: at which being amazed, he drew his Sword and had a great Combate with the Crocodile, but in the end the Crocodile remained dead, and he dipped his Helmet into the Fountain and took some Water from thence and hasted to the Cave, where he found Don Bellianis still in battle with those Fantasms, he gave many blows, but could not hear any sound of them, but he himself was so beaten that he was well nigh out of breath. Thus the Numidian arrived in the Cave, and following close to his friend, crying, Courage Sir, proceed to the Fire, for I have gotten that which will put it out: At which Words Don Bellianis went forwards, and the Numidian followed so close, that at last approaching to the Fire he threw the Water therein, which he had no sooner done, but there happened much Lightning and Thunder, and immediately they found themselves in the plain Fields, no sign of any Cave or Garden onely the Castle remained. At which they believing the Enchantment to be ended, went towards the Castle, where when they came the doors of the Castle were opened, and they Walking into the Hall saw another door, which conducted them into another Room, where they met the Soudan Walking in great haste to see what was the occasion of that great noise: but when he came down and saw them two nights, he greatly marvelled, not yet thinking the Enchantment to be ended: but they putting their knees to the ground told him, that if as hitherto he

had bæn a prisoner, he was now by the bounty of Heaven free, and thereupon the Prince of Numidia pulled off his Helmet, which the Soudan seeing ran to him, knowing him, and said, Ah good Cousin Baltasano, how much am I indebted to you for this great travel that you have undertaken for my Delivery: But Baltasano answering, replyed, Good Uncle, all my endeavors had bæn fruitless, had you not bæn assisted by this good Knight, to whom you are much beholden, and so is your daughter or else she had kept for company.

The Soudan hearing this, went to Don Bellianis, and lifting him from the Ground, said: Indeed good Knight, he who brought me hither, told me that if I would not consent that he should dispose of my Daughter, he would ere long force her to keep me company, and we should end our wretched lives together, but I resolved rather to suffer any Torment than to consent to so great an evil as the delivery of my Daughter to him, trusting that the Heavens would be so good to her as to preserve her out of his hands, and rather chosing to have perpetual imprisonment than that she should be given into the power of any person: If I would have consented to this, I had long ere this bæn delivered, but thanks be returned to Heaven in that they have bæn so courteous, as to send you to deliver me without such hard conditions: and thereupon he asked them how his Daughter did, and his Empress, and all the rest of the Court: asking them how far he was off from his Court, he not knowing thereof, for he had continued in a Trance all the Way coming thither both by Land and by Sea, and did not come to himself til he was placed within the Castle.

To which questions he was answered how that it was many days Journey from Babylon, but if he was ready to go with them, they had brought a Ship of his own to carry him into his own Countrey: At which he was glad, and therefore they having looked round about the Castle, departed there-from, and as they were walking to the Water-side, they perceived the two New Knights coming towards them who when they had heard the great Thunder and Lightning which was at the ending of the Enchantment, they supposing some such thing attempted

once

once more to land, which they did with great ease, for all those Monsters that had formerly opposed them, were at the end of the Enchantment vanished away, at which they much marvelled, and so coming on Land, went directly towards the Castle, but when they saw the Souldan in company of the two Knights, they were amazed, and falling on their knees they humbly kissed his hands, and then Balcasano telling him who they were, he greatly rejoyced. Thus they returned and went to the Sea-side where they soon embarquing themselves, set sayl and departed on their way to Babylon.

CHAP. XXI.

How the Souldan of *Babylon* in company of the *Knight of the Golden Image*, the *Knight of the Bear*, the *Knight of Hope*, and the *Knight of the Flaming Sword*, travelling towards *Babylon*, met with an Adventure, whereby they understood of the danger of the Princess *Florisbella*, and how they arrived in *Babylon*.

SO long sayled these great Personages on the Sea, that in the end they all came to shore, and landed in the Kingdom of Armenia, where providing themselves of Necessaries to travel, they set forwards for Babylon. They travelled through all the Kingdom of Armenia without any Adventure, and came into some part of the Empire of Trebizond, when one day several Troops of Knights overtook them, Don Bellianis being desirous of Novelty, put forward from his company, and joyning himself with them, desired to know whither they were going: To which question the Knight toking on Don Bellianis, said, Sir Knight, I had though you could not be ignorant of the Wars that our Emperor intends to make against Babylon.

Don Bellianis hearing of this, was wonderous desirous to know the truth of this matter, and therefore he thus replyed: Truly Sir Knight, I am a stranger in this Country, being but lately come into these parts, therefore I pray you give your

self the trouble to give me a particular account of this matter. Know then Sir Knight, quoth the other, that you are now in the Countrey of the Emperor of Trebizond, which is now governed by an Emperor called Morello, who hath not long ruled the same: for it is not yet above six months since his Father dyed, and till his Father dyed he spent the greatest part of his time in travel, in seeking out strange Adventures to get honor and Renown, and under the Name of The Black Knight he brought to pass many a hazardous Adventure: At the time of the decease of his Father, he was in the Court of the Soudan of Babylon, and there under that title, though unknown, he exercised many deeds of Knighthood and thereby got great fame, but hearing of the death of his Father, he left that Court and returned home, where he was received by all his Subjects with much content and joy: but during his being at Babylon, he beholding the matchless Beauty of the Princess Florisbella, Daughter to the Soudan, he fell deeply in love with her, but durst not discover the same because there hath been much Wars betwéen their two Fathers, but after he was come home, and had béen some time Crowned, he opened his mind to some of his Nobility, they liked well thereof, and knowing that the said Princess is sole Heir to the Crown, did well approve of the Match whereby these two Empires might be joyned, he therefore resolved in his mind to send Ambassadors to ask the said Princess in Marriage of her Father, which was done accordingly, but when they arrived at the Soudans Court, they found that the Soudan was absent, having béen toll some time before, and the Court was in great sorrow for his absence; however the Ambassadors delivered their Embassie to the Emperess and her Council, who returned Answer, That they could not by any means dispose of their Princess without the consent of her Father: But they importuned the business further, and the Princess her self being asked the question, she made the same excuses at first, but the Ambassadors in the end importuned her for her absolute Answer, which she gave them to their small content; for she very boldly told them, that though her Father were returned, yet should she always continue in this opinion,

that

that she would never accept their Master for her Husband: with which Answer they at last returned, being very sorry that their Embassie turned to no better effect.

Arriving at Trebizond, and returning this Answer to their Master, he was at first much troubled, but in the end understanding of the absence of the Soudan, he resolved to make use of the present opportunity to be revenged, as well for the old wrongs his Empire had sustained by the Soudan, as for the new affront so lately put upon him, and thereupon he immediately commanded that a great Army should be levied, and sent Commissioners into all parts of his Empire to raise all the Force he could suddenly, intending forthwith to travel towards Babylon, and spoil the Dominions of the Soudan. And this, Sir Knight, is the occasion of these Troops so suddenly marching, for we are going to the General Rendevouz at Trebizond.

The Knight having given this Declaration to Don Bellianis, left him and went forwards, and he stayed behind in a very deep melancholly, considering the Estate of his fair Princess: but however he was somewhat joyful that he had this occasion of serving her, hoping to do such acts for the defence of the Empire, that the Soudan would be thereby induced to bestow his daughter upon him. In this consideration he was, when the Soudan and the rest of the company overtaking him, asked him what was the occasion of his leaving them, and what was his large Discourse with the Knight? To which he soon replyed, and recounting the whole matter to the Soudan, gave him the greatest amazement in the World.

In much trouble did they ride the rest of the Journey, being all disturbed at the late news, but the Soudan was very much pleased in that he was freed himself from his imprisonment, that he might in person be able to resist his enemies, and help his country, resolving that he would lose his Empire, rather then consent to the Marriage of his Daughter without her own assent. This gave Don Bellianis some satisfaction, in that he knew if the Princess had the liberty to dispose of her self, that he should be ascertained to have her.

And

And therefore he desired the Soudan to trouble his mind as little as he could, for, said he, as I have been instrumental in restoring you your liberty, so I shall not fail to do all that lies in my power to rid you of your enemies, and I have so good friends in the World, that if occasion serves I shall be able to raise such a power, as shall easily overthrow the designs of your enemies to their confusion, and your own Honor. In these discourses spent they the most of the time that they travelled, and the Soudan was forced to disguize himself, till he came into his own Country, lest he being known by any of his enemies, should be taken and kept Prisoner: but it was not long ere he arrived in his own dominions, and then he travelled the more boldly but he as yet saw no preparations for War, at which he much wondred: but the Emperor of Trebizond had been so sudden, that News of his Expedition was hardly yet arrived to the Court: When they came within one days journey of the Court, they saw some preparations for the War, and the Soudan met with many of his Knights, who knowing him, were exceeding glad for his deliverance, and that at such a time when as there was most need for him. Thus the nearer he approached the court, the more company he gathered, so that by that time he came to Babylon, he had above forty thousand Knights in his company, which gave him much content and joy: but that was not half so pleasant to him, as the sight of his own City, where he was no sooner entred but the Inhabitants had notice thereof, some running to inform the Empress hereof, and others running to meet him, still enquiring which was the Knight that delivered him, and having known him, great was the praises they gave them. In this manner they rode through the City, and arriving at the Court, they was met by the Empress, her Daughter the Princess Florisbella, the Princess Mazarola, and many other Gentry, and great Personages, and so great was the content of the people, at the return of the Soudan and his company, that they wept exceedingly for joy. The Soudan alighting from his horse, went first and embraced the Empress most lovingly, and then the Princess his Daughter, who received him on her knees, but he raising her up kindly saluted her.

Don

Don Bellianis was now on his knee before the Empress, humbly desiring to kiss her hand: but she knowing how much she was engaged to him, would not permit that, but the raising him from the ground most lovingly saluted him, giving him many thanks for the great pains he had taken for her, calling him the Restorer of Babylon, and bestowed many thanks upon him, when he had received his welcome from the Empress, he went to the Princess her Daughter, and falling on his knees, humbly kissed her hands, but the Son raised him from the ground reiterating all the thanks that her Mother had already given him: To which discourse he replyed, and said: That since he had been pleased to admit him to the honor of being her Servant, he questioned not but he should be able to overcome any Enterprize how difficult soever, and since there was an occasion given him of expressing his dutious service to her, he was resolved to do such acts as might render him worthy of the esteem she had of him, or in the prosecut of them, lose his life as testemony of the duty he owed her.

Thus he discoursed with her, and then he went to the Princess Mattarosa to receive those Welcomes that she had prepared for him: which were in effect the same he had received before of the Empress and her Daugeter: and thus taking her by the hand the Soudan doing the same to the Empress, and the Numidian Prince to the Princess Florisbella, they walked into the great Hall of the Pallace, where being come the Ladies helped to disarm them, which when they had done and had clothed themselves in rich Mantles, they sat them down to repose themselves: many of the Nobility came into the Presence to congratulate the return of their Soveraign, and to kiss his hands and thank the Knight of the Golden Image for the great good he had done them, in restoring their Prince to them in such time when they most stood in need of his presence.

But Don Bellianis returning them thanks, told them that without the assistance of the Prince of Numidia he had not been able to have performed that Enterprize, but however what power he had, he should willingly at all times employ in defence of the Soudan and his Countrey, they were glad to hear these ex

pressions

pressions from him, doubting that now he had performed this adventure, he would depart; but understanding that he was resolved to stay and assist them in the Wars, they humbly supplicated the Souldan that he would be pleased to order Don Bellianis to be General of such Forces as should be raised to go against Trebizond: To which the Souldan soon consented, but he would not accept of so great a charge except the Prince of Numidia might be joyned in Commission with him: To which they at last consented, and it was ordered as soon as a sufficient Force should be ready, he should advance towards the Enemies countries, and the Numidian Prince should stay at the Court to guard the City, and obey such further orders as should be necessary. In these consultations they continued most of that evening, till it was time for every one to go to rest, at which time he commanded his Dwarf to give him notice of the departure of the Princesses to their Lodging, because he was very desirous to have some conference with them which the Dwarf did so effectually, that he brought Word that the Princesses were both together in the Lodging of the Princess Florisbella, wherefore he sent him to the Princess Mattarosa, to know whither he should give them a trouble of a visit in that place, she acquainting the Princess her Cousin therewith, they so ordered it, that she dismissed all her Damiels but one who was acquainted with her Love, and so telling the Dwarf that his Master might come when he pleased, the Dwarf returned with this answer to his Master, who being glad thereof departed out of his own Lodging to go into that of the Princess, which he accordingly did, as shall be declared to you in the next Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

How *Don Bellianis* went to the Chamber of the Princess *Floribella*, and of the discourse they had there; and how the next day he departed towards *Trebizond* with fifty thousand men.

The Dwarf had no sooner delivered his Message, but Don Bellianis repaired to the Chamber of the Princess Floribella, whither when he was come, he kindly saluted her and the Princess Mactarosa her Cousin; which having done, they all seated themselves, and the Princess his Mistress thus began to him:

Sir Knight, since I have admitted you to be mine, it is necessary that you give me ordinary satisfaction of telling me the order of your proceedings in this Adventure; and since I have not yet heard the particulars thereof, I pray let me have the knowledge of them from your own mouth.

Madam, reply'd Don Bellianis, the actions that I have done in this occasion are so inconsiderable, that it is not fit that your ears should be troubled with matters of so small moment; but since it is your desire to give your self so much trouble, I shall give you a small relation of them.

Then did he begin to tell her all the passages of that Adventure, beginning from the time that they took shipping, the happy meeting with the Sage Bellonas Damsel, the rescuing her from the Spaniards, his desperate attempt in throwing himself into the Sea to get to shore, his killing of those Monsters, his destroying the Cave, fighting with the Serpents and Dragons, and all those other Actions which he and the Numidian Prince performed for the Releasing of the Souldan: At which recital she was so sensibly afflicted when he related any thing wherein he was in any peril, that the crystaline tears ran from her fair Eyes down her Cheeks in great abundance, which made him leave off his discourse, and say to her:

Madam, the trouble that I thought I should put you to in recounting these Adventures, made me desire to be excused in discoursing them to you; but if I had thought they would

have given you so sensible a displeasure, I should for once have so far disobeyed your Commands, as not to have given you an account of these past Actions.

She hearing that he had done, wiping her fair face, said: Sir Knight, the many difficulties that you have run thorough for my sake, could not chuse but make me accompany you in tears, but praised be the Gods who have delivered you from these dangers, and I hope these wars once ended, there will be no further occasion for you to endanger your person. Ah Madam, said he, if my discourse hath given you any sense of sorrow, assure your self I was much more afflicted when I had first the relation of your misfortunes about the Emperor of Trebizond, and although I did not question your Loyalty, yet I knew not what you might be compelled unto by a fearful Mother, and a Nobility without a Head: but I am to render you infinite thanks for your so resolute answer to his Ambassadors, not questioning but some considerations of me the meanest of your servants, occasioned you to return that answer.

Sir, said she, I never had any inclination for that Prince, for his person does not please me, and besides that, there is such an antipathy in my nature to any one of the Family of Trebizond, though never so well accomplish'd, that I should have refused him; but were there presented to me the most accomplish'd person for vertues and magnanimity, and were he likewise sole Potentate of the whole Earth, set in competition to you, Sir, and were you but a bare Knight-errant, my choice should quickly testifie that the love I have promised to you, is not counterfeit, but absolutely real. He hearing her in these termes, fell down on his knees, and fervently embracing hers, cryed out, Ah Madam, how do you undo your creature with heaping so much blessings upon him, which in all his life, although spent in your service, can never merit? The Princess Matrarosa seeing them in these termes commanded him to arise, and leave off these impertinent protestations; for, saith she, I am confident you are both so well satisfied of each others affections, that these words are impertinent, and must needs give you both some sensible trouble. They very well knowing that she spake a great deal of reason, fell from this discourse to some other

other, as what order he intended to take in his Expedition: To which he replyed, That he intended the next day to be upon the march with those Forces that were already raised, and go meet the Enemy, if possible, in his own Quarters, and so hinder him from hurting the Countrey: To which the Princess was somewhat unwilling to give him leave to depart so soon, but he telling her that the sooner he went, it was most probable he should return the sooner, and that during his absence, he would send his trusty Dwarf with Letters to the Princess Mattarosa to be delivered to her, and under that pretence Answers might be sent without any suspition: These things being concluded of, and he taking his hearty Farewel both of her and her Cousin, after many amorous Salutes, he departed to his own Lodging, and so he went to take his ordinary repose.

The next day he was up early in the morning, and the two Knights Of Hope, and The Flaming Sword, desired that they might be admitted to wait on him in this Expedition: to which request, he being sufficiently satisfied of their Valor, assented, and gave them both sufficient Commands under him, which when he had done, he sent for the Prince of Numidia, and they after some Conference together, resolved immediately to muster all the Forces that was then in the City; which they having done, found that there was eighty thousand men. And Don Bellianis resolving to be gone, divided the Forces into two parts, and took under his Command fifty thousand men, knowing that the Forces of his Companion would increase daily; and therefore commanding them all to be in readiness that Afternoon, he repaired to the Souldan, and desir'd his leave to depart, telling him that old Paxim in War,

That the least delay,
Spreads Palms, and scatters Roses in Rebellions way.

The Souldan after he had heard his reasons, gave consent, giving him a large Commission to raise Forces all the way he should go, and promising to send him more Aid with all the expedition that might be.

Thus this brave Partialist taking his leave of the Souldan

dan and Ladies, departed from that great City, and that evening marching ten miles to a little Town, where for that night he took up his Quarters.

CHAP. XXIII.

How *Don Bellianis* marching towards *Trebizond*, and increasing his Army, arrived at last near to his Enemies Camp.

EArly the next morning did Don Bellianis arise, and caused the Drums, Trumpets, and all other Warlike Instruments to sound a March; which Command being accordingly obeyed, they advanced forwards, but he was much hindred in his Marches, by reason of the great quantity of Forces that still came in to him, so that before he had marched one hundred and fifty miles, his Army was one hundred thousand men compleat, at which he was very joyful; and therefore he made all the expedition possible to meet the Enemy before he should be come out of his own Kingdom. But the Emperor of Trebizond having carried on his business with great privacy, had gotten his Forces together, and mustring two hundred thousand men, besides many fierce and strong Giants, he was advanced with his Army very far, and was come into part of the Dominions of the Soudan of Babylon, before he heard the News of the Soudans being returned, which did somewhat trouble him, but however he resolved to go on, and not leave his Enterprize unattempted.

Wherefore hearing of the approaches of his Enemies Forces, he sent to see what number they were, and who had the commanding of them. The Messenger returning to him, told him that the Soudans Forces consisted of one hundred thousand men, and that they were conducted by a famous Knight, called The Knight of the Golden Image.

Hearing this news, he was somewhat discontented thereat, for he had been in the Wars between the Soudan of Persia and the Duke Alfiron, and there he had both heard and seen the valiant Acts of the Knight of the Golden Image: but however he resolved to persist in his Enterprize, and like a good and hardy

Knight

Knight to go forward, and endeavor to give his Enemy battel before he should increase his Forces, not questioning but thorow the magnanimity of his own Valor, and that of his Knights and Spaniz under his Command, he should be able to encounter his Enemy with good advantage, and considering he had double his number, he might vanquish and overcome his Forces before Aid came to him: wherefore he hearing that he was within a days march of his Enemy, caused his Army the next morning to march forwards, intending that if his Enemy continued his march to join Battel with him. Don Bellianis likewise hearing that his Enemy came forwards, advanced apace, being resolved as well as he to give him Battel that day, if it were possible: but when they approached near to one another, their men were so wearied with that days travel, that before they could put them in any good order, & bring up the Rear of their Armies, the evening came on, so that they were both forced to alter their resolutions; and therefore they both encamped themselves in sight of one another, and all that night both Armies made great Fires, so that it was an artificial day, now and then running into one anothers Camp in small parties, and doing some harm: but the morning approaching they let the Fires go out, and Don Bellianis caused them all to prepare themselves for the Battel, and so they did, encouraging one another in the best sort that might be, resolving to lose all their lives, ere they would permit themselves to be overcome by their enemies. Don Bellianis knowing what was necessary to be done by a good General, having been in many other Battels, order'd his Army and divided his Squadrons, as shall be shewed you in the Chapter following.

CHAP. XXIII.

How *Don Bellianis* ordered his Forces, and of the cruel bloody Battel between the Emperor of *Trebizond* and his Army, and the Forces under the command of *Don Bellianis*.

The morning being come wherein this great Battel was to be fought, Don Bellianis arose early, and dividing his Army

Army into three Squadrons, took forty thousand men under his own Command, twenty thousand men he ordered to be commanded by the Knight of Hope, and twenty thousand men under the command of the Knight of the Flaming Sword, and twenty thousand men more he order'd to be under the command of the Prince of Mesopotamia, and not to stir to the Battel, until there should be an absolute necessity, or that he should be commanded by himself.

Thus having ordered his Battalions, he commanded the Heads of every Troop to come to the Front of the Army, where he encouraged them by this following discourse: Gentlemen, and fellow Souldiers, the cause of this War I shall not need to inform you of, you being already satisfied in that particular, the Courages of your Enemies you likewise are acquainted with, having by often experience found that never any of your Nation was overcome by them, but that you still marched away Conquerors, giving Laws to them rather than obeying any of their Commands.

Their presumption that your King was absent, was the chief occasion of this boldness in them, or else they would not have been so hardy as to enter your Land, and now being ashamed after all this provision to turn back again without abiding the hazard of a Battel, they with much unwillingness expect you; their intentions was to force your Princess, command your Estates, dispose of your Persons, and to make all the Inhabitants of this Kingdom their Vassals, hoping to have found you in disorder, and without a Head, but thanks be to Heaven you have not onely a Head to rule over you, in that your gracious Soveraign is restored, but also a General who will hazard his person to the utmost with you, and therefore I question not but you will have hearts to follow my Example; and if you see any thing of courage in me, to imitate me therein and follow my Example; and assure your selves that I resolve to conquer or die: thus hoping you have all the same courage and resolution, let us bravely fall on our Enemies.

This Speech being ended, caused a great shout throughout the whole Army, and presently every one repairing to his own Com-

Command, they marched on to assault their Enemies, who all this while were not idle; but the Emperor not forgetting what was necessary to be done, did likewise order his Battel, and divided them into four parts, one of fifty thousand men he commanded himself, the Prince of Albania commanded the like number, and two mighty Giants of his kinred, commanded the other two Squadrons.

Thus having divided his Forces, and ordered his Battel, he was likewise about to make an Oration to his Souldiers, but the noise which his Enemies made in their Approaches diverted him, & therefore causing his Trumpets and Drums, and all manner of Military Instruments to sound, he being armed at all points in the Front of the Army, went forwards to receive the Babylonians. Don Bellianis being likewise in the Front of his Army, seeing his Enemy approach, and believing it to be the Emperor, because he had on his accustomed black Armor, in which he had gotten great Renown, anger and jealousie so incensed him, that taking a strong Lance and couching the same, he ran full against him; and the other being also provided did the same in such brave manner, that their Lances shivered into pieces, and their horses meeting, had like to have overthrown one another: but these two brave Warriors soon recovering themselves, and drawing their Swords, assaulted one another with incredible fury: Long did their Combate endure together, so that both Armies joyned, and as well the Soldiers as the Commanders performed wonders, making an incredible slaughter: At length one of the Giants, Consin to the Empress, advancing with his Troop, arrived at the place where the two Generals were in Combate, and resolving to dispatch Don Bellianis, cowardly came behinde him, and gave him so weighty a blow on the Helmet, that he fell backwards on his horse, and he going to redouble the same, had certainly killed him at the second blow, had not the horse of Don Bellianis run away with his Master, who soon coming again to himself, and being extraordinarily enraged, perceived that it was the Giant that had used him so hardly, for he still pursued him to take away his life, which he seeing, being more enraged than any Numidian Lioness bereaved of her whelps,

to helps, the fire sparkling from his eyes, let fall his Target, and taking his Sword in both hands, laid so puissant a blow on the Spant, that he did cleave him down from the head to the middle. The Black Knight seeing this, cryed out, Oh ye Gods! with how much force and valor have you endued one single Knight?

Don Bellianis having done this execution, spurred on his beast, and more furiously than a baited Bull entred the Army of his Enemy, where he did kill and slay all that came within the reach of his Sword. The Black Knight did the like, till at length he was encountred with by the Knight of Hope, who in despight of his resolution to go forwards, made him stay and bravely receiv'd him: but the Black Knight being of admirable force and dexterity so handled him, that in short time he left him without sense or motion, and so he departed and went forwards, killing and slaying all that had the valor to oppose him. Thus continued he a long time, till one came to him, and told him that his presence would be very necessary in his own Army, for that the Knight of the Golden Image, and those who followed him, had put one of the Squadrons of his Army to the rout, which he hearing presently departed; and coming to the place where Don Bellianis was, he saw him perform things incredible, for he was in pursuit of many Knights, none of them having so much resolution as to turn their faces towards him, for if they did, they certainly met with their deaths.

The Emperor seeing this, was forced for the safety of his own men, to engage himself once more in Combate with him, which Don Bellianis was not at all discontented at, but renewing his forces, he likewise renew'd the Fight with him. These two valiant Champions continued long in fight together, and gave to each other such violent blows, that those Forces that were there stood still and forbore fighting, to behold them: But Don Bellianis, whose match was not to be found throughout the whole Universe, being angred that the Fight continued so long, gave the Emperor so mighty a blow on the arm, that he wounded him so mightily, that his Sword fell out of his hand; which Don Bellianis seeing, and intending to redouble his blow,

was

was prevented; for many valiant Knights who had till then ſtood ſtill, ſeeing their Prince in ſo great danger, went and ſuccored him, and in deſpight of Don Bellianis carried him away to his Tent, where when his wounds were dreſſed, he would have entred the Fight again; but his Chirurgeons would not in any wiſe permit it.

Thus the abſence of the Emperor cauſed Don Bellianis and his party to prevail: but although he behaved himſelf with great valor, and killed many Knights and Giants, yet their great numbers ſtill freſhly coming on, in the end tired him, ſo that when the night approached (he having continued the Battel all that day) he withdrew his men, and contented himſelf with what he had done, for the next morning having taken an account of the numbers that he had loſt, he found that he wanted but fifteen thouſand men, when on the enemies part were ſlain or loſt ſixty thouſand men.

That day the Knights of Hope, and of the Flaming Sword, did perform bravely, and not having ever been in any Battel before, they by the example of their General performed excellently both in commanding and executing, and the Prince of Meſopotamia though a moſt valiant Knight, and much againſt his will, this day performed nothing, for he remained where his General had commanded him, and there was no occaſion to uſe that force that was under his command till it was night, and then they retreated in good order to the place where he was placed, and there taking up their quarters expected the approach of the next morning's ſun to renew their fight. News was ſoon carried every where of the good fortune of the Knight of the Golden Image, and the forces under his command, and how that in ſingle Combate he had ſo wounded the Emperor of Trezibond in the arm, that he was forced to leave the fight, and of thoſe other advantages that he had gotten, which cauſed many more of the Soudan of Babylons Subjects to come in unto him, and the next day there arrived a freſh ſupply of fifty thouſand men from the Prince of Numidia; with promiſe and aſſurance that he himſelf would within few days be with him in the head of one hundred thouſand men, and then they did

not question but they should be able to expel their enemies out of the Countrey.

But Don Bellianis believing that he had Forces enough already to perform that without any new Additions, resolved to try the fortune of another day with his whole Army, resolving to die or drive his enemies out of the field. In this resolution he continued, and therefore gave order that all should be in readiness to fall upon their enemies, whensoever he should command them.

On the other side the Emperor of Trebizond was much discontented at the wound he had receiv'd, but resolv'd that should not hinder him from fighting in his own person in the next Battel which he intended should be within two days, for by that time he expected a recruit of fifty thousand men which were already raised, and onely staid behind to expect his Command for them to advance: which Forces he sent for with this resolution, that as soon as they were come to him he would again hazard another Field-battel, but he was hindered of his purpose, for Don Bellianis according to his resolution he had already taken, did engage him and all his Forces in another Field-battel, before the arrival of his other Forces, as shall be shewed you at large in the Chapter following.

CHAP. XXV.

How *Don Bellianis* fought another Battel with the Emperor of *Trebizond*, and how he forced him to leave the Field; and how he followed him into his own Countrey.

TWo hours before day the next morning did Don Bellianis, without any noise of Trumpets, or other warlike Instruments, leave his own Camp, and with his whole Forces marched to assault his Enemies, who having kept a strict Watch took the Alarm, but before they could put themselves in a readiness, Don Bellianis and his Forces had sacrificed the lives of above twenty thousand men.

The Emperor of Trebizond being enraged at this surprisal, soon

ſon called for his Armor, and having arm'd himſelf therewith and being mounted on a luſty Courſer, ſon revenged himſelf of ſome of his Enemies, for before he brake his Lance he diſmounted above twenty Knights, and being accompanied with twenty fierce Spants (who were appointed for his Guard by reaſon of the laſt days misfortune) they with their broad and sharp cutting Cymetars and Battel axes made a woful deſtruction, to what place ſoever they came preſent death followed to thoſe that reſiſted them: at length they met with the Prince of Meſapotamia, who having bin idle all the laſt battel, was reſolved to make amends in this days combate, and went with a Guard of a hundred Knights, killing and forcing their ways through their enemies Camp: him and his Knights did the Emperor and his Spants aſſail, and between them happed a bloody Conflict; for the Spants being of the beſt in the whole Army, had preſently ſlain above twenty of his Knights, which ſo enraged the Meſapotamian, that maugre all their reſiſtance, he ſent two of their black ſouls immediately to accompany his Knights, and fiercely breaking through the midſt of them, he ran againſt the Emperor with great advantage, for he well nigh diſmounted him from his horſe: for he not being provided for the encounter, was forced to catch hold of his horſe-neck to ſave himſelf from falling. At which aſſault he recovering himſelf, and being enraged, with his ſword gave his adverſary ſo mighty a blow on the Helmet, that he bent his head to the horſes neck, and would have ſoon diſpatched him of his life, but that the Knight of Hope came timely enough to prevent him, and ſo received the blow, and returned it ſo fiercely on the Emperor, that he was wounded on the Thigh: and by this time the Prince of Meſapotamia had recovered his ſenſes and finding the danger he was delivered from, was firſt thankful to the heavens, and then revenged himſelf on one of the Giants, who was next him, whoſe arm he cut off, and wounded him ſo in the ſide, that his life was ſacrificed to his revenge.

Thus the Battel was in this part of the field, but the Knight of the Golden Image, and the Knight of the Flaming Sword keeping company with one another, made very great havock of

their enemies, and being followed by a great party of valiant Knights, gave the enemy so terrible an On-set, that after two hours contention they fled and left the field, having first left it thickly strewed with the dead bodies of the Emperors Forces. Don Bellianis pursued him so long, that in the end they came to a great River, and seeing that death was both before and behind them, they made a stand and bravely resisted him and all his Forces, where they fought so desperately, that the streams of the River which were wont to be of a christal hue, were now by means of the great slaughter was there made, become of a scarlet dy.

All this while the Emperor and his Giants, with great part of his Forces, were engaged as I told you, with the Prince of Mesapotamia and the Knight of Hope, where though they on both sides performed miracles, yet in the end in despight of all the resistance he could make, after the death of many of his Giants, and a very great slaughter of his men, was likewise forced to retreat, which he did with a great deal of sobriety, hoping that the other part of his Army was in better case than that which he commanded. But he was not long without the knowledge of what had hapned to them: and hearing that they were engaged at the River side, he then commanded some of the most valiant of the Giants to make good the Retreat with the best advantage, and the least loss they could, while he himself went in all haste to his Forces, hoping by his presence to put new courage into their hearts. When he came to them, he found that they had made a mighty resistance, and that the Fight was very bloody; wherefore that he might exercise the part of a discreet General, and bring them off with the least loss, he knowing that there was a Bridge not far off, sent to possess it: which when he had done, he commanded his Army to retire thither as fast as they could, he himself, with the most valiant Knights of his whole Army making good the Rear as well as they could; but notwithstanding all the diligence and valor that they could use, Don Bellianis and the Knights with him plied their business so well, that ere they got over the River many of them lost their lives: At

length

length they got to the other side of the River, and in despight of Don Bellianis and all his Forces, they cut down the Bridge, so that there was no way for him and his forces to follow them.

This being done, he left a strong Guard at the Rivers side, and then return'd to the place where the Emperor had encamped, where they found great Treasure, for so great was their haste in their retreat, that they had not time to take any thing with them. All the Booty of the Emperors Camp he gave to the Souldiers, which gave them a great satisfaction, and caused them ever to have a great esteem of him.

This being done, he dispatched Messengers to inform the Souldan of what he had done, not forgetting to write to his Dear Princess, the remembrance of whom made him the more desirous to put an end to these wars, that he might solace his spirits in her company. The Emperor of Trebizond being thus forced to leave the field, and seeing that Fortune was a little contrary to him, yet being of an extraordinary courage, resolved still to persevere in his enterprise, and not to leave off basely, hoping in the end to attain his desires, and in order to the strengthning and recruiting his forces, he sent commands to those Forces that were behind, to await his coming to a City called Pharez, which was the first City in his Empire; which being accordingly done, one evening leaving some horsemen at the Rivers side, he raised his Camp and departed to Pharez, and the next day those that he had left behind at the water followed him: He thus being arrived at the City, fortifi'd it both within and without, and sent throughout his Empire to all places for help, resolving to make that place the seat of war, for else he knew that the Souldans Forces would follow him further.

The next day after their departure, Don Bellianis was informed thereof by those he had left at the water side, wherefore he marched down thither, but do what he could it was two days before he could mend the Bridge, which the Emperor of Trebizond had caused to be broken; which when he had done, he passed over with his whole Army, resolving to pursue his enemy, which he did accordingly: and thus in good order he

marched

marched till he arrived near the City of Pharez, where he saw that the Enemy had made strong entrenchments without the Town, so that all he did at present was to encamp himself near them; which when he had done, he prepared to give them an assault, which he did, as shall be shewed you in the Chapter following.

CHAP. XXVI.

How the Emperor of *Trebizond* being besieged in the City of *Pharez*, sent Ambassadors to *Albania*, *Georgia*, *Muscovia*, and several other Kings his Allies, to help him in his Wars with the Souldan of *Babylon*; and how *Don Bellianis* assaulted his Forces that were encamped without the City.

DOn Bellianis being very desirous to do all that might be possible for the overcoming of his enemy, before any other help came to him, that he might acquire the more honor thereby, resolved to set upon his enemies Camp, that was without the City, and (if possible) force them to retire into the City, that he might lay a close Siege thereto, and so hinder them from going abroad for provisions. In order to which resolution, after his men had rested themselves, he commanded them to provide to assault their enemies.

On the other side the Emperor resolving to abide him there, took care for fresh supplies, for he not onely sent through all his own Dominions for more help, but likewise sent Ambassadors to those Kings that were either his Friends or of his Alliance, such as were the Kings of Albania, Georgia, and the Emperor of Muscovia, desiring them not to fail him in this occasion, and the Ambassadors who went, made such expedition, and had such good success in their Embassies, that the Emperor had great assistance, as you shall hear hereafter. In the mean time, knowing that he had not onely a valiant, but a politick enemy to deal with, he kept strict Guards both within and without the City, lest he should be surprized.

Don Bellianis notwithstanding all the diligence he took, did sur-

prize

prize him; for having drawn out a Squadron of fifty thousand Knights, the most accomplish'd in the whole army, caused them to put a piece of white silk or cloth in their Helmets, that they might know one another though in the dark: and in the middle of the night, when his enemies expected no such matter, he came to the Camp, and killing the Centinels, fell in among the Emperors Forces, and slew many of them before they could arm themselves, and such was their confusion in the dark, that they without knowledge slew one another, not knowing their enemies from their friends by reason of the darkness of the night, and their not being acquainted with his stratagem. In this manner he run through the Camp, and being followed by the best of his Army, came to the walls of the City, desiring them to open, perswading the Guards that they were of their own party, telling them that they must needs speak with the Emperor: but the Guards who had commands to the contrary, went immediately to the Emperor and told him thereof, who arising from his bed, came to the wall, and then he very well understood that the Army was alarmed; wherefore he refused to open the Gates, not knowing whether they were of his own Army or enemies.

Don Bellianis perceiving this, and that it would be to little purpose to continue there, departed, and so returned through the enemies Camp, killing and slaying all that were in his way, and so being gone through the Camp and passed all the Guards, he caused the retreat to be sounded; which his Souldiers hearing, soon understood the meaning thereof, and so left the Camp and came to him; who when they were come, fairly retreated to their own Quarters; But Don Bellianis who had an intent to surprize the City, and failing therein, as you have heard, was somewhat vexed: but however he considered that he had done them a sufficient mischief, for he had killed above twenty thousand of his enemies, and came off with the loss of not above five hundred men.

This action gave the Emperor a sensible displeasure, and did resolve if possible to revenge it, but he could not at present put his resolves into execution, wherefore he gave strict command

to

to keep double Guards, and more strict Watches, hoping in short time to have such aid that he might be able not onely to revenge that loss, but to beat his Foes out of the field: But before any Forces came to his assistance, Baltasano Prince of Numidia arrived at the Camp of Don Bellianis with one hundred thousand men, and with new Orders from the Souldan, that if the Emperor would pay the cost of the War, and disband his Forces, that then he should have peace, otherwise that they should prosecute the War against him to the utmost; such was the desire and inclination that the Souldan had for peace.

These Orders much troubled Don Bellianis, being very discontented that the War must end, and that he could not sacrifice the life of his Rival, fearing him so long as he should live, lest he should so propound the having of the Princess Florisbella, as the Souldan should accept of it, and indeed when the propositions were sent to the Emperor, he was willing to accept of them provided he might have the Princess for his wife, otherwise he would stand to the utmost hazard of the war, not questioning but by the help of his Allies and Friends, but that he should not onely be able to beat his enemies out of his Countrey, but to assault them in theirs, and give them such trouble that the Souldan would be willing to propound his Daughter for a composition of the War.

This answer being returned to the two Generals, Don Bellianis and Baltasano, displeased them both, but the anger that Don Bellianis was in at this proposition was so great, that I am not able to express it; for rising from the place where he sate, he delivered this answer to the Messenger:

Go tell thy Master, that so long as the Souldan of *Babylon* has Subjects in his whole Empire, that he shall never compel him to such baseness as the prostituting his most Royal Daughter to one so base and unworthy: and were all the Treasure of the Souldan exhausted, all his Subjects slain, and none left in his whole Empire to defend him, yet I would command such an Army from other parts in defence of the Royal Princess *Florisbella*, as should not onely be able to expel thy Master from the Souldans Dominions, but also to destroy him, and all his in the very heart of his

own

own Kingdom. And tell thy Master, that since he hath neglected the gracious and favourable Propositions of the Souldan, that he now expect no more, but prepare himself for all the misfortunes that a cruel and bloody War can bring him; And tell him, that I the *Knight of the Golden Image*, do resolve when next I meet him, to bereave him of his life or lose my own in the attempt, and hereupon I bid him mortal battel.

This was the Answer of Don Bellianis, and it was spoken with so much fierceness, that the very fire issued out of his eyes for anger, and he could hardly utter his words for the inward vexation that he took at the Demands of the Emperor. Thus the Messenger being returned, Don Bellianis and Balzafano resolved both to assault him on the next day, and use their utmost endeavors to gain the City, and thereupon they provided all things ready for an Assault.

CHAP. XXVII.

How Don Brianel Prince of *Macedon* was married to *Aurora* Queen of *Antioch*, and of the Tilts and Tournaments that was held at the Wedding, and of an Adventure that happened there.

WE will now for a while leave the two Princes of Greece and Numidia, and all their Companions and Armies in their field, encamped before the City of Pharez, as you have heard in the foregoing Chapter, and turn back to Antioch where we left the Princes Don Brianel of Macedon, Don Clarineo of Spain, and Don Lucidamore of Thessaly, Don Contumeliano of Phenicia, and Florisplano of Swevia, who attended there to assist at the Solemnization of the Marriage.

There was no great joy for the return of the Queen, that most of the Nobility of the Country resorted to Antioch to see her, and to tender her their dutiful Allegiance, which she graciously accepted, and they still stayed to continue the Triumph that should be at the Wedding. The day being come, and all things provided, the Queen and Don Brianel were married in great pomp, and she that day was most richly attired, so that

notwithstanding all her sorrow in her travels, she appeared to be one of the most handsome Princesses in the world: Dinner being ended, every one resorted to the Tilt-yard, which was near the Pallace, where a Scaffold was erected, and on that was placed two Chairs of State for the King and Queen to sit and behold the Tournaments and Feats of Chivalry that was to be performed.

Don Clarineo, Don Lucidamore, Don Contumeliano, and Fliorispiano, and a young Knight called Trion, or the Knight of the Wolf, who was Son to Damartino the late Governor, were the Challengers, who undertook to Joust, and keep the Field against all comers for six days, and accordingly they being armed at all points, entred the Lists, and commanded the Trumpets to sound, and the Herald to proclaim, that if there were any adventurous Knights that would in honor of the King and Queen break a Lance, they were there ready to receive him; which was no sooner done, but there came a Knight armed in white Armor, who taking a Lance entred the Lists, and expected the sound of the Trumpet that he might begin his Course: the Knight of the Wolf did the like, and they bravely meeting brake their Lances in the encounter, and so passed on; at the next encounter the Knight of the Wolf had so good fortune, as to overthrow the other Knight out of the Saddle, and passed on being unshaken, and expected another Assaylant, when presently another Knight armed in Azure Armor entred the List, and doing his obeysance to the King and Queen, expected the encounter, which was so fierce that he lost both his stirrups, and the horse of the Knight of the Wolf was on his buttocks, but he soon made him rise and so went bravely on, when taking another Lance, and resolving to be revenged of his late disgrace, he ran so fiercely against the Knight in the Azure Armor, that he sent him from his horse to the ground with his Saddle between his legs.

After this, another Knight entred the List armed in a green Armor, and on his Shield was painted a Knight leaning on the ground under a tuft of Trees, and he went by the name of The solitary Knight: this Knight after his due reverence to the

the King and Queen mounted about the field with great grace at last he arrived at the end of the Lists, and taking a Lance from one of his Pages at the sound of the Trumpets began his Carere and performed so well that he made the Knight of the Wolf loose both his Stirrops, he being very little shaken with the encounter. At the second course the Knight of the Wolf in revenge of the former blow, ran so fiercely that he threw the Solitary Knight horse and man both to the earth: at which there was a great shout.

And thus did the Knights of the Wolf throw many Knights from their horses, so that he that day dismounted fifteen, and the night coming on they left off that sport, and retiring into the Court, they disarming themselves, fell to dancing: In which exercise they were as perfect as the other, so that they are as fit for Venus as Mars. Much of the evening they spent in these kind of exercises, but at length they left off, and conducted the King and Queen to Bed, where the fair Princess gave to Don Brianel as full and free possession of her Body, as he had formerly given her of her Kingdom, and there he received a full satisfaction for all the travels he had sustained in her service.

Much was the content they both received, and I suppose there was but few Knights in the Court but did envy their happiness, and would have been glad to have had the company of so sweet a Bed fellow as he enjoyed; in which enjoyment we will leave him and the rest to their several thoughts till the morning, which being come they all arose, and the Queen signified by her blushes, that she had departed from that Jewel which till then she had preserved.

They being all dressed, now time came when they were to go to Dinner, which being done they all went to the Lists place to prosecute that sport they had begun, where every one being seated in the same order they were the day before, the five Champions rid about the field expecting the arrival of some adventurous Knight: they had not stayed long ere they had their desire for there entred a Knight into the field armed in black Armor, causing his Horse bravely to prance about the Field, perform-

ed his Duty to the King and Queen, and then taking a Lance expected the sound of the Trumpet, which being heard he put forwards, but he was encountered with such force by the Knight of the Wolf, that he was thrown from his horse, and forced to measure his length on the earth, which having done he retired and then there entred into the Lists a Knight armed with a white Armor, as a new Knight, and on his Shield he had two Keys of Gold painted very artificially: this Knight gave all the Spectators cause of admiration, for he demeaned himself very courteously, not only in his saluting the King and Queen but in his respects to all the Spectators, and taking a Launce in his hand he ran against the Knight of the Wolf so furiously, that at the first encounter he threw him to the earth, to the great amazement of the Company, who now took him for a very brave Knight. Having performed so well with the Knight of the Wolf, he faced about and expected to meet with some other Knight, and he failed not long in his expectation, for Florispiano of Sweria taking a strong and knotty Lance, at the sound of the Trumpets met him with so great fury, thinking to revenge his Companions quarrel, but he was deceived therein; for he onely brake his Launce upon his Enemies Shield without doing him any other harm, and the Knight of the Keys having likewise broke his Launce, took another, and so they began a new Carrier: but that sound was more to the disadvantage of Florispiano than the former, for he lost both his Surrops; but before he came to the end of the Lists he bravely recovered himself; and so they did both, and taking new Launces ran again, but to the greater misfortune of Florispiano than before, for he was now tumbled from his horse. This gave much wonder to all present to think who the Knight of the Keys was, for he was wholly unknown there, and came then by chance, as shall be told you hereafter.

The Knight of the Keys having performed so valiantly, expected another Knight to encounter him, when presently Contumeliano Prince of Phenicia prepared himself for the Encounter: and taking a Launce in his hand went forwards to the Knight of the Keys, and said to him: Sir Knight, I have one

request

request to make to you before we try our fortunes with the Lance, which is, that you would tell me your Name, and of what Countrey you are.

To which the Knight of the Keys courteously replied, Sir Knight, I am known by no other Name than the Knight of the Keys, and to tell you any other Name would little satisfie you, for I was born in a Countrey so far from hence, that it hath seldom here been heard of; and I'le assure you I came hither by accident, and never was in your company, nor in this place before till this day, and therefore if you have nothing else to say to me, let us proceed with our Lances. To which the Prince of Phenicia replied, I to my experience know, Sir Knight, that you do perform very well with the Lance, therefore I pray grant this Request, that if we chance both to break one or two Lances without any effect, and neither of us have any advantage, that you will proceed to the Sword, where we may have more occasion to try our valors. To this Request the Knight of the Keys consented, and so they forthwith brake off their discourse, and began their Career.

Great was the fury with which both these Champions met and they resolving to shew all their strength, brake their Lances in pieces, and so passed on; at the next encounter they resolved to perform better, and so they did, for they not onely brake their Lances, as before, but meeting with their bodies with great fury, fell both to the ground. Great was the admiration at this wonderful encounter, and both the Knights were themselves much amazed, but they nimbly got on their feet, and the Knight of the Keys being angred at this misfortune, went to the Prince of Phenicia, and said: Sir Knight, it was your desire before we tryed our fortunes with the Lance, that if we should have no advantage with the Lance, that we might end the Controversie with the Sword: Now since we have both had an equal misfortune, and thereby are unapable to end the difference with the Lance, let us finish it with our Swords. To which the Prince of Phenicia consented. And so they drew their Swords and began a marvellous brave Combate, to the satisfaction and admiration of all the

Beholders,

beholders: they being equally resolved to make amends with their Swords for the default of their Lances, laid on many lusty strokes.

The Knight of the Keys being a young and lusty Knight, behaved himself very nimbly, giving his Adversary very many strokes, and still avoiding those of his Enemy, which so enraged the Prince of Phenicia, that he should be so slain before so many brave Knights his Friends and Companions, that he resolved to fasten one blow on his Enemy that should end the Combate, but he was deceived, for though it was so mighty a stroke that the Knight of the Keys was forced to lay one hand on the ground to save himself from falling, yet he quickly recovered himself, and gave his adversary a mighty blow on the Thigh, so that he was wounded there extreamly: which the King and Queen seing, and doubting that what was begun in Jest and for Recreation, would end in earnest, and in the execution of one or both of their lives, caused them to be parted, much pitying that two such brave and valiant Knights should injure one another upon so slender an occasion. They being parted, the sport for that day ended, and every one returned to the Pallace, much wondring who the Knight of the Keys was.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Who the *Knight of the Keys* was, and some of his Adventures, and an end of the Tournament.

IN the west part of Christendome there is an Island called Ireland, in which Island the Knight of the Keys was born, in a City called Wexford, scituated near the Sea-side: his Parents being Christians at the time of his Baptizing gave him the Name of Peter. His Father was Earl of one of the Provinces of that Island, called Munster, and Brother to the King of that Island. This was the place of his Birth, where being the onely Son of his Father, he was bred up with all the diligence and care that might be, he providing Masters to instruct him in all things fit for so great a person.

He

At the age of eighteen years he being dubbed Knight, begged leave of his Father to seek Adventures: to which his Parents hardly consented, in regard he was the onely Comfort and Joy of their old Age: but his importunity prevailing, providing himself of things necessary, he caused a strong Suit of Armor to be made, and in respect his name was Peter, in remembrance of that holy Saint and Apostle, he caused two Keys to be painted on his Shield: And providing himself of all things necessary for so great a Voyage as he intended to take, he took his leave of his Parents, his Mother giving him three rich jewels at his departure, and her Blessing, and so he departed, taking shipping for England, where he arrived and performed many valiant Deeds of Arms: but his resolution being to see Strange and far Countreys, he took shipping again, and crossing over the narrow Seas arrived in France, where at the Court of that King he performed brave Feats at Arms at the Marriage of one of the Noblemens Daughters.

And leaving a great fame of his Valor behind him, he travelled through all France, and arriving at Marsellis he again embarqued himself intending to sail to Constantinople, resolving there to spend some time in seeking out Adventures: but as he was sailing thither, the Ship was forced to put in at an Island called Sardinia, and being advertised that a great Feast was held there in Honor of the Kings Coronation Day, and that there was many Knights who approv'd their valors in running a Tilt, and such kind of honorable Exercises, he resolved to spend some time amongst them; which he did to his great advantage, for he so well demeaned himself that he got the sole honor of the Tournament, and he carried himself so courteously to all, that he not onely got the good will and affection of the King and Queen, but also of their Daughter the beauteous Magdalena, who was so wounded by the little God Cupid that she knew not what to do: in vain was it to smother her affection, which she strived by all means possible to do, but could not, so that an ancient woman her Nurse with whom she had been bred, did discover that somewhat was the matter more than ordinary with her Pupil, and although she used many

ways

ways to finde what should be the matter, yet she failed in all, till at length the Princess not being any longer able to smother her affection, discovered it to her Nurse, begging of her not onely to keep it concealed, but also to give her the best advice that she could.

The Nurse now knowing the Disease of her Mistress began to apply Remedies, and like a discreet person told her, that it was altogether unfit for her who was the Daughter of a King and so great a Beauty as she was, that the greatest Princes in the world might account themselves happy in the enjoyment of her, that she should set her love and affection on a simple Knight, one who was but a private person, and it was unknown whether he was nobly defended, or not.

To which the Princess soon replied, That she was confident he was not of mean Parentage, but of Princely Birth, in respect of the Princely Endowments and Qualifications that she saw he was endowed with; and therefore if she would do her any service it must be in this occasion, to find some way to discourse with him, and gain some knowledge of him from himself, for she was resolved in her love, and that it could not any ways be diverted.

The Nurse seeing this, desired her to smother her passions as well as she could, that the King and Queen might not discover any thing from her, and that she would take some speedy occasion to give her some satisfaction.

In these terms she left the Princess, who promised to be guided herein by her advice, and sought opportunity to speak to the Knight, which she soon found, for he was so deeply in love with the Princess, as she was with him, and desired nothing more than to have an opportunity to speak to this old Lady, who he saw was very conversant with the Princess, and did believe was her Confident. They being both equally desirous of one and the same thing, meeting together she began to him thus:

Sir Knight, I much marvel that you keep your self so concealed for I know very well that the King, Queen, and the fair Princess *Magdalena*, would be very glad to know your Linage, and Countrey,

Countrey, especially my Lady *Magdalena*; and if you would be pleased to tell it to me, I shall inform her therein, which I know will be a great satisfaction to her.

The Knight hearing this discourse, and perceiving that it was occasioned by the Princess, gave her this Answer.

That since his departure from his Parents he had not discovered himself to any, and that the Princess should command more from him than any person in the World: but she must excuse him in this particular, onely you may certifie her in general, that I am born of Princely Parentage, and that I am her very humble Servant: And I pray Madam (said he) remember my hearty Love and Service to her, and give her on my behalf this Jewel. And thereupon he gave her one of the Jewels his Mother had given him, which the old Lady received, and so they parted.

She in all haste coming to the Princess, gave her the effect of her discourse, and the Jewel; at which she was extreamly satisfied and still was every day more and more entangled and ensnared in the bonds of Love: and thereupon she caused the old Lady to have another Conference with him. At which second Conference he told her, that if the Princess would be pleased to grant him private access to her, he would give her a satisfactory account of his Estate and Condition: the which the old Lady promised to effect, and thereupon he gave her another Jewel to present to the Princess in his behalf, which she did accordingly, and then the Princess was more satisfied than before, longing for the appointed time when he was to come: which prefixed time being come, he accordingly came to visit her, and was admitted into her Presence, where after his Civilities tendered to her, he discovered himself to her, and of what Linage he was, and not onely so, but seeing how matters went, he discovered his Love to her: at which she was not at all discontented, but told him of hers to him, to the great satisfaction of them both; and there they so ordered the matter, that they concluded to be at the dispose of one another during life; and he in testimony of his love gave her another Jewel, more worth than both the former; all which he had, as I told you formerly received of his Mother: and she in return

took a Gold Chain from her Neck, and bestowed it upon him; the which he received in hearty good will. All this was done in private, not so much as the old Lady being present; and when they had thus done and the old Lady was come, after many farewels, though unwilling, he departed.

This business being thus concluded on, he lived long time in the Court, and still was in the same credit with the King and Queen. At length he was resolved further to try the Constancy of his Princess, and thereupon took an opportunity to speak to her, and told her that now he had been there a long time, and saw no way how to gain the good will of her Father and Mother, and therefore resolved to go home and visit his Parents. At which discourse she was much troubled, for her great love to him would not permit of any separation, but she rather resolved to leave Father and Mother, and all her friends than be without him, and therefore it was resolved that she should go with him, and he prepared a small Barque to that purpose: which when it was ready at the time appointed, he in company of his Princess entred, she taking with her a good quantity of Gold and Jewels, and so they departed and left Sardinia, with a resolution to go towards his own Country.

No sooner were they gone, but the Princess was missed at Court, and the King after some enquiry, hearing which way they were gone, sent several Ships after them, but it was in vain; for a Tempest had forced the Barque in which the Knight and the Princess were, quite another way, and drave them on shore at another Island called Sicillia, where their Barque being split they got on shore, being both glad and sorry for their good and ill fortune, where the Lady after some travel by land to find a house where to repose themselves, being weary, sate down, and drawing forth a little red Purse, shewed her Knight the three Jewels he had given her: at which he was joyful that she had not left them behind, and laying it by her, she being very weary, fell asleep, and he lay lovingly by her; but some ravenous Fowl flying by, and seeing the red Purse, supposing it to be a piece of flesh, descended from the Sky and took it up, which the Knight seeing, and knowing what it was,

arose,

mast, looking to see whether the Fowl would fly, which did now alight on a Tree, but he soon followed her, and disturbed her by throwing stones at her, till he forced her to fly away with the Purse; he being more angry than before, still followed her, and the flying towards the water side, he still pursued her with stones, which the Bird perceiving, at length let the Purse fall into the Sea, but it was in so shallow a place that he could see it lye at the bottom, but could not come at it, it being a great way in the water: he attempted many ways to come at it, at last he discovered an old Boat hard by, to which he repaired, and finding a Sail therein, he intended to pull the Boat to the place where the Purse lay, to the end he might recover it: which he could not do, for the Boat coming into the strength of the stream, in despight of all he could do, he was carried a great way from the place where he took Boat, and at length he came into the main Sea, when, though too late, he would have thrown himself into the Sea, if by that means he could have got on shore. Thus was his Princess left alone on shore, lying in an unknown Land, of whose misery we shall hereafter speak more.

But now we return to him who made heavy complaints not onely for his own misfortune, but that of his Princess: And thus his Boat was at the mercy of the Sea for three days, he expecting every moment when he and the Boat should be devoured by the Sea, but his Destiny having prepared him for better fortunes, at last he was forced by the impetuousness of the waves, on a little Island in the Mediterranean Sea, called Zante, where when he came on shore, he prayed God for his safe deliverance from the Sea, not without many tears for the loss of his dear Princess. There when he had in some manner recovered his health, which was impaired by his long fasting, he hired a small Ship to search up and down all the Islands of the Archipelago to find his Princess out, not knowing the name of the place where he had left her: but all was in vain, for he had left her quite another way.

Thus being crossed at his ill fortune, he at last landed at Constantinople, and then not caring whither he went, such was his

sorrow for the loss of his dear Princess: His destinies after many weary Journeys, at last brought him to Antioch, where he arrived at the Triumphs held for the Solemnization of the Wedding of the King and Queen, and there he performed such Knightly Deeds of Chivalry, as hath been told you in the foregoing Chapter.

The next day after the Combate between the Knight of the Keys and the Prince of Phenicia, all the Champions resorted early into the Lists, and there the two Knights desired of the King to give them leave to finish their Combate: but the King would not assent thereto, but ordered that they should both desist there-from; and in regard there had been so much equalling in the Knights both at the Lance and Sword, neither of them should be accounted Vanquished, or Vanquisher; and that they should neither of them come into the Field all the following days of the Tournament, but that the two Knights Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore should keep the Field onely; which at last they all assented to, and they performed it to their great honor: for in that time they dismounted many hardy Knights but still kept the honor of the Field till all the days of the Tournament were accomplished.

CHAP. XXVIII.

How *Don Clarineo, Don Lucidamore, Contumeliano, Florispiano, The Knight of the Wolf, the Knight of the Keys,* did all take their Leaves of the King and Queen, and journeyed towards *Babylon* to meet with *Don Bellianis.*

These Jousts and Tournaments being ended, and most of the Nobility departed to their own Dwellings, the Knights Don Clarineo and his Companions, desired leave to depart in quest of their Brother Don Bellianis, and the King and Queen hearing that he was at Babylon, or thereabouts, knowing of the Wars that was between the Soudan of Babylon and the Emperor of Trebizond, and that Don Bellianis was engaged therein, they not onely consented to their depar-

ture,

ture, but also would have furnished them with many brave Knights to have gone with them, but they refused that kindness.

The Knight of the Wolf likewise knowing their intentions, and that in their company he should be certain to get glory desired his Father Damasino to give him leave to accompany them, which he did likewise consent unto, knowing the worth of his companions would be able to keep him from harm: thus were they accompanied and ready to go, when Peter of Ireland, the Knight of the Keys, being almost berraved of his senses for the loss of his dear Mistress the Princess Magdalena, and being resolved to search all the World over but he would finde her; and having a very great esteem for the Princes Don Clarineo, Lucidamore, and the rest of their Companions, for the great worth and valor that he saw them endowed with, he came likewise to them, and desired them to admit him to be a Companion in their adventurous Travels: To which his request they soon consented, for they had a very great esteem for him, having seen him exercise his valor.

Thus accompanied, they came one morning to the King and Queen to take their last farwel, when the King told them that since they would not take any forces with them, he desired that if his Cousin Don Bellianis, or any of them had, or should have any occasion for Forces, he would at any time assist them with fifty thousand men, and come in the head of them him self, and give such testimonies of his good will and affection for them, that he would merit the esteem and service they had done for him. Having thus said, the Queen likewise heartily thanked them for the honor they had done her, and desired to be kindly remembred to Don Bellianis, hoping that he and they all, the Wars being ended, would take that place in their way home, whereby she should again have the satisfaction of their good companies: to which Request of hers they assented to, kissing her hands they departed, and set forwards for Babylon.

The Knight of the Keys was very heavy and pensive, as you have heard, which gave them all some trouble, but Don Clarineo having a more particular esteem for him than the rest, so wrought

the occasion of his melancholy: which when he had heard, he was likewise much troubled thereat, participating in the sorrows of his friend, and promised him that so soon as he had seen his Brother Don Bellianis, that he would return with him to Constantinople, and there would cause such diligent search to be made, that he would find her if she were any where in all those Seas, vowing unto him an eternal friendship; which the Knight of the Keys not onely accepted, but promised the same should continue to him to the end of his life.

This discourse being ended, they passed on their Journey in somewhat more pleasant communication in such manner, that in short time they arrived near to the City of Babylon: In which travels we will once more leave them, and turn to Don Bellianis and his Companion, the Numidian Prince, and the rest of those valiant warriors that were set down before the City of Pharez.

CHAP. XXIX.

How Don Bellianis and the Prince of Numidia assaulted the Emperor and his Forces, and forced them all to retire into the City.

GReat was the vexation and anger of Don Bellianis, for that he saw the Wars had here him so long from the sight of his dear Mistress the Princess Florisbella, and therefore he resolved to assault his Enemies, and force them to a Battel, and the Prince of Numidia was likewise of the same resolution: Wherefore they providing all things ready, divided their Camp into two parts, which they set between them, and so with their whole Forces set upon the Camp in their Entrenchments, and finding given them the Alarm, followed it with so much pursuit, that they soon forced them to retire to the City Walls.

The Emperor of Trebisond being advertised hereof came forth, and at the head of fifty thousand valiant men went to meet Don Bellianis, whom he soon found and knew by the mightiness of his blows; the presence of the Emperor gave some new

new courage to his Soldiers, and he engaging with Don Bellianis caused them that were about to flie into the City, to face about and return upon their Enemies, and then there was a fierce Slaughter upon all sides.

The Prince of Numidia with a Party of fifty thousand men rode up and down the Field, to give his assistance to that part or place where there was most need: and there was one party of the Emperor of Trebizond's Foot-souldiers of about fifty thousand, who kept close together, and did much harm to his Souldiers, being commanded and guarded by ten strong Spaniards, whom the Numidian attempted to disperse, but they were all so resolute that he could not break through their Ranks; wherefore he attempted them a new way, and retiring from them first, covered his Squadrons in the fashion of a Wedge, the Front nor being above twenty Knights, but the Rear was about five hundred men broad, and he in the Head of this party forced with his twenty Knights into the ranks of his enemies Squadron, and maugre all the resistance of the Spaniards and the rest, he went into the body of the Camp, and being gone so far, the rest followed him, till at length the Rear of his Squadron opening to the right and left, and so wheeling about both ways, encompassed the Enemies Squadron, engaging them in Front, Rear, Flanks and Middle, and indeed on all sides at one and the same time, he had such success that in short time he killed most of them, so that of fifty thousand men there was not left one thousand alive.

All this while the Emperor himself was fighting valiantly with Don Bellianis, where he gave and received many wounds, but there was little advantage between them, by reason they were hindred by the multitude of other Knights that fought about them. This incensed Don Bellianis, being full of wrath that he could not execute the Revenge he intended on his Enemy; but before they were parted he gave him one large wound on the shoulder, and then the company encreasing he was forced to leave him, and so he fell into the Ranks of his Enemies, being much angred; the effects of which caused the death of many persons, for he seldom gave a stroke but death presently followed.

lowed. He was attended by the Prince of Mesapotamia, the Knight of the Flaming Sword, and the Knight of Hope, who did very well testifie themselves to be valiant Knights, and good Practitioners in Bellonas Field: great was the slaughter where they came, but far greater where the Prince of Numidia was; for he had destroyed all his foes, and was now coming to Don Bellianis to assist him, but he needed little of his aid: for like a roaring Lyon he flew like Lightening into all places of the Field.

The Emperor of Trebizond hearing of the ill fortune of his Squadron of Foot, in whose strength he put much confidence, was greatly dismayed at that Overthrow, and being angred at his ill fortune, he caused a Retreat to be sounded, but it was in a very ill manner performed; for he was forced to draw all his Forces into the City, not being able any longer to keep the field leaving his entrenchments to his Enemies, and with great difficulty did he get into the City, for he was hotly pursued by his Enemies, and many of his men slain: but at length into the City he got and made fast the Gates, and then Don Bellianis, Baltasano of Numidia, and all their forces being hindered from going further, were forced to stay: But coming into the place where their Enemies had encamped, they found very good Wort, which gave a great satisfaction to the Soldiers, their General having given them free leave to take all they could get. This being done, they fortified themselves in their Enemies Entrenchments, the two Generals resolving not onely to continue close Siege to the City, but also to assault them there, setting Pioners to work to undermine some part of the City-wall, that they might make a breach and so enter to them, and all the other ways that they could invent or imagine they put in practice: but the design at that time was hindred, for the City was soon after relieved by the arrival of fresh Supplies, as shall be hereafter declared to you. And now we will for a while turn back to Babylon to the Souldans Palace, and see what the Ladies did, which we will shew you in the next Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXX.

How the Souldan of *Babylon* received a Letter from *Don Bellianis*, who sent others to the Princesses *Floriabella* and *Matharosa*: and of the Arrival of the Princes *Don Clarineo* of *Spain*, *Don Lucidamore* of *Thessaly*, and the rest of their Companions at *Babylon*, in quest of *Don Bellianis*.

The Souldan of Babylon had not heard any News of the success of his Forces under the command of Don Bellianis, since the departure of the Prince of Numidia, onely such News as report gave out, and therefore much desired to be satisfied in his Affairs: however he continually raised more Forces, and kept a great Guard about him, to be ready at all times, when occasion should serve to be upon the march. In these Affairs was he employed, when one day sitting in Council, an express Messenger came with Letters from the Camp, which he delivered to the Souldan, who immediately causing them to be opened, there was written as followeth.

The LETTER *of* Don Bellianis *to the Souldan of* Babylon.

Dread Lord,

SInce my arrival with your Forces I have been indifferently fortunate, for I have not onely satisfied the mindes of your own Subjects in the way that I marched, but have also received much aid by their voluntary assistance, which I accepted of according to the Orders that you sent me, and we have had some Engagement with the Enemy to a very good advantage; for we have forced him to leave your Countrey, part of which he was entred into and retire into his own with much loss and disadvantage. The Arrival of the Prince of *Numidia* was very importunely done, for we were then engaging the Enemy, who is so wilfully resolute, that without the aid he brought we should have had some disadvantage.

The Offers of Peace you ſent were tendred to the Emperor of *Trebizond*, but he in hopes of Aſſiſtance from his Neighboring Kings, is ſtill reſolute to proceed in the War, unleſs he may have the Princeſs your Daughter offered up to him. Which Propoſitions of his we wholly declined, and ſuch is the anger of your Subjects at his Arrogancy in propounding things ſo unreaſonable, that rather than their Princeſs ſhall be expoſed to a thing ſo diſagreeable to her inclination, they will all loſe their lives. If, Sir, you continue in this opinion (as I hope your Imperial Majeſty will never condeſcend to a thing ſo baſe and mean, as the Proſtitution of your Daughter, to have peace with your Enemy) I then queſtion not but to force your Enemy to very good terms, and much to your advantage. If the aid the Emperor expects does come in to him, it will occaſion the lengthning of the War, and you ſome trouble to ſend freſh ſupplies, which I queſtion not your readineſs to perform; And Sir, aſſure your ſelf, that in ſo juſt a cauſe as this, I ſhall not onely hazard my own perſon to the utmoſt perils, but rather than condeſcend to any thing that is baſe, I ſhall be able of my ſelf to raiſe ſuch Friends as ſhall bring me two hundred thouſand men to juſtifie this Quarrel, and be revenged of your unreaſonable Enemies: But I hope, Sir, e're any freſh Supplies come to the Enemy, that we ſhall be able to compel him to put an end to this War: And aſſure your ſelf that all my utmoſt endeavors ſhall not be wanting in execution of this publick Affair, as hitherto I have been ready to hazard my Perſon in the preſervation of your Majeſty, and that of your Family, and I ſhall think my ſelf ſufficiently ſatisfied, if for all my trouble and travel you will do me the honor to permit me to be a ſervant to You and your Family, and more particularly to be admitted by your fair Daughter as a Servant to her Vertues; In expectation of which I ſhall account nothing dear, ſo as I may be admitted for her Champion, and I queſtion not but I ſhall give a ſatisfaction to you all; which I make my reſolve to do, or die

A Faithful Servant to your Imperial Majeſty,

The Knight of the Baſilisks.

Great

Great satisfaction did this Letter give to the Souldan, not onely for the good success that his Forces had already obtained, but for their resolution to continue constant to him: He considered that he had great cause to be thankful to the Knight of the Basilisks (for so he was called at the Court, being unknown by any other Name there:) he had been much bound to him already for delivering him and his Daughter from the Enchantment of the Tent, as it was set down in the first Book of this History, for the assistance he had given to his Cousin the Princess Aurora, in helping her to her Kingdom of Antioch; for his delivering his Cousin the Princess Mattarosa, and her Brother the Prince of Numidia, from the power of the Gyant Alcifer and his Companions, and more especially for releasing him from the Enchantment in the Island, to the extraordinary great peril of his person, and now at last he was engaged in a long and troublesom War, and had performed very well already in it, and had sent him his resolutions to persist therein, and all the advantage he desired and propounded to himself for all these so signal Services, was onely to be admitted a Servant and Champion to his Daughter, whose Cause he was now fighting in.

These he thought so reasonable, that he immediately sent for his Daughter, and being resolved to do nothing as to her person without her consent, he told her the effect of the Knights Letter, and withal informed her with his Request, desiring her that if it were not wholly against her inclination, that she would grant the Request of the Knight.

She who was as desirous of this as he was, and had not only a good will, but an extraordinary affection for him, answered her Father, That she considered the Obligations they were all bound to the Knight of the Basilisks in were so many, and binding, that she was ready to do that, as also any thing else that her Father should desire that would give satisfaction to the Knight of the Basilisks, who she said, she believed was sent by the Gods for the preservation of her and all her Family, and was certainly the Titular Angel of their Countrey. And she further added, that were she knowing of the Birth and Paren-

tage, and that it were equal to hers, and the good Will of her Father and Friends joyned to her own Inclination, she should do that willingly for him which the Emperor of Trebizond endeavored to force her to, so greatly was she satisfied, not only in the Courage and Magnanimity, but also in the Vertues of the Knight of the Basilisks.

When she had said thus she held her peace, and somewhat blushed that she had so plainly discovered her affection to her Father: but she was somewhat satisfied when her Father gave her this reply, That he was wholly of her opinion, and that he questioned not but that one so well accomplished, was likewise of an Illustrious Birth, and that he would endeavor to satisfie himself in his Birth, in the mean time he advised his Daughter to write to the Knight, and give him some satisfaction, such as she should think fit: And he said, he questioned not but he was of an extraordinary Quality, for he propounded the raising two hundred thousand men to fight under him in this Service.

This was the discourse betwen the Emperor and his Daughter, which being ended she retired into her Closet, where she was expected by her Cousin the Princess Matrarosa, who had received Letters from Don Bellianis, one for her self, and another for her Cousin. When the Princess Florisbella came there, she found her Cousin reading of that to her self, but she quickly left off that to deliver the other to her Cousin: which she no sooner received, but she opened the Seal, and found therein written as followeth.

The LETTER *of* Don Bellianis *to the Princess* Florisbella.

MADAM,

I First crave your pardon for my silence hitherto, and give you this for excuse, that my Sword has till this time been so employed, that I had not time to exercise my Pen. My Sword hath been exercised in the destruction of your Enemies, and indeed we have

have had ſo good effects (the juſtneſs of our Quarrel commanding it) that your Enemies are not onely expell'd out of your Kingdom, but they are in ſome kinde of diſtreſs in their own; for we have at laſt (by the help of your valiant Couſin the Prince of *Numidia*, and the Forces he brought with him) forced the Enemy with great loſs to leave the Field and retire to the City, where we have now encompaſsed him. The Propoſitions your Father ſent were not accepted of, though very reaſonable, and the Emperor of *Trebizond* is ſtill ſo preſumptious, as to deſire your Perſon in marriage, and upon theſe terms he will leave the War; and this he queſtions not to force you to do by the help of more Forces he is raiſing, and by the Aid he expects from ſome of his Alliance; how pleaſant this Propoſition was you may eaſily judge, and that he might as well have ſaid that we ſhould all ſuffer our ſelves to be ſlain without any reſiſtance, and I for my part ſhould ſooner have conſented to that, than this ſo unjuſt command. This his preſumption cauſed me to defie his Perſon, and I had a reſolution to kill him, or die at our next meeting, but hitherto I have been hindred from executing this my juſt Reſolution, but I ſtill keep in the ſame Determination. Madam, this is the preſent condition of your publick Affairs, but I continually ſuffer Martyrdom in my long abſence from your Divine preſence: Madam, I beſeech you pardon my preſumption in writing ſo plainly to the Souldan your Father, I did it to underſtand ſomewhat of his inclination: I pray let me by your anſwer know his reſentments thereof. Thus Madam, hoping and not queſtioning your Conſtancy, and that your inclination will ſtill continue to make me happy, I reſt

Your Eternal Servant,

Don Bellianis.

The Princeſs having read hers with much content, deſired to know the effect of the Letter ſent by her Knight to the Princeſs Macrarosa; which ſhe delivered into her hands to give her that ſatisfaction, and in exchange took hers: the Princeſs Floriſbella read as followeth:

The

The LETTER *of* Don Bellianis *to the Princess* Mattarosa.

MADAM,

I Shall not trouble you with an Account of our proceedings in the War, my Letter to the Souldan, or that to my Princess will give you that satisfaction: but to tell you in general, that all things here are well, and we want nothing but your pleasing companies to divert us. Madam, I hope you sometimes have some thoughts of us, and that that friendship which hath been contracted between us, is not forgotten; and I hope you have a particular care of the Affairs of your poor Servant, whom out of nothing you have made so happy: I beseech you continue me in the good opinion of my fair Princess your Cousin, and assure her that I will ever endeavor to give her daily effects of my Duty and Service.

The Prince your Brother is in very good health, and hath performed Wonders in this War, and the young *Knight of Hope* is very diligent in preserving the Favor you were formerly pleased to give him, and in honor of your Name he acts marvellously, and gives great testimonies of a valiant minde, the effects of which have caused the deaths of many of your Adversaries; and indeed he is such a one as deserves an esteem from you, having your name and person in great veneration. This is all I shall at present trouble you with, yet once more I beg you to continue my Princesses esteem towards me, and in doing thereof you shall eternally oblige

Yours Servant,

Don Bellianis.

The Princess having read this Letter, returned it to her Cousin, and then they conferred together what was necessary to be done. The Princess Florisbella informed her Cousin of the Discourse that had happened between her Father and her self about Don Bellianis, and said that there was nothing wanting to gain the Souldan's Consent, but the discovery of Don Bellianis his Quality, and then she questioned not but her Fa-

ther

there when he should be informed of his High Birth, would be very well satisfied in every thing; and therefore, said she, I think it will not be amiss for you to discourse of this matter to your Aunt my Mother, and you may take occasion to declare somewhat of Don Bellianis his Extraction, telling her that you heard it by some of his Company when you were released from the Giant Alcifer.

To this they both agreed and resolved, but they had no occasion thereof; for not long after arrived at the Court the Princes Don Clarineo of Spain, Don Lucidamore of Thessaly, and the rest of their Companions, in search of Don Bellianis, when they arrived at the Palace, they enquired for the Souldan, who was with his Council communicating to them the good News that he had received by Letters from the Knight of the Basilisks.

Being come into the Presence, Don Clarineo in behalf of himself and his Companions told the Souldan that they came from the Court of the Princess Aurora from Antioch, who desired to be recommended to him in all humility, and had sent him a Letter, and then kneeling on his knees, he delivered the same to the Souldan, who causing the same to be opened, it contained these words.

The LETTER *of* Aurora *Queen of* Antioch, *to the Souldan of* Babylon.

Most Illustrious Unkle,

MY hard misfortune in being expelled my Kingdom hath long since arrived to your knowledge, and now having so great a good as to be restored thereto, I thought convenient to inform you of the truth thereof. The Illustrious Prince *Don Bellianis* of *Greece*, and Son to the Emperor, has (by the appointment of the Gods) been the chief Instrument of my Restauration; for not onely he and his Friends killed the Usurpers *Gallanto* and *Tramolcano*, but also have caused the Souldan of *Persia* to give me full and quiet possession thereof, where I am now peaceably settled: And I have also joyned my self in Marriage with *Don Brianel* Prince of

Macedon,

Macedon, and Cousin to the same *Don Bellianis*, who as I hear under the Names of the *Knight of the Basilisk* and *the Golden Image*, hath done you some Services. Assure your self, Sir, that he has not his equal throughout the whole Universe, as I by sufficient experience can testifie, both for valor and vertue; and I think my self happy in his Alliance, having married into his Family. This Noble Company that are now come to you are his Brethren and Alliance, and are come in quest of their Brother and Friend. What kindness you shall do to them, I am confident they will deserve, and it shall be likewise acknowledged to be done to

Your affectionate and obliged Kinswoman

Aurora *of Antioch.*

Greatly satisfied was the Soudan when he had read this Letter, for now he knew that which he so much desired, the Quality of Don Bellianis, and seeing his two Brothers, and knowing that they were all of his Alliance, he arose from his Seat and kindly embraced them, and bid them heartily welcome, telling them that he accounted himself extreamly happy in their company, and that he was more obliged to their Brother and Friend Don Bellianis, than to all the Persons on the Earth.

They gave him many thanks for the good esteem he had of them, and told him that they were likewise ready to serve him in what occasion soever he should employ them: and since Don Bellianis was absent, they desired his leave for them to depart towards him. The Soudan consented to this, but withal he desired them to take some Forces with them, which was accordingly agreed on.

Thus after this Discourse with the Soudan, he conducted them to the presence of the Empress and her Daughter the Princess Florisbella, and her Cousin Mattarosa, and the rest of the Ladies; which pleasant sight gave a great content to all the Knights but Peter of Ireland, but in him it renewed his sorrow for the loss of his Princess Magdalena. The Empress and

and Ladies being informed by the Souldan of the Quality of the Knights, and that they were Brothers and near Relations of Don Bellianis, was much pleased with their company, and giving them their hands to kiss, told them that she was very joyful to see them: the Princesses Florisbella and Matarosa did likewise kindly receive them: and the Princess Florisbella was not onely joyful for their arrival, but also greatly contented that now her Father was satisfied in the true Quality of Don Bellianis.

The Knights were all very sensible of the occasion that continued Don Bellianis in the Souldans service, and did truly think that it was for the sake of the Princess Florisbella, whom they did esteem to be the most beautiful Lady they ever saw, and therefore worthy to be served by so good a Knight.

At length after several Complements the Knights were disarmed, and after a short repast the Souldan called them to Council, wherein it was concluded, that they should depart the next day, and carry with them fifty thousand men who were all ready for the march, to go and assist Don Bellianis.

CHAP. XXXI.

How the Emperor of *Trebizond* was relieved by the Arrival of the Kings of *Albania* and *Georgia* with one hundred thousand men, and fifty thousand men sent by the Emperor of *Russia*, and how he appointed a pitcht Battel with *Don Bellianis*, and *Baltasano* Prince of *Numidia*, and their Armies; and how the two Princes Brothers to *Don Bellianis*, and all the other Knights came with the Aid of fifty thousand men, and engaged with *Don Bellianis* and his Army against the Emperor of *Trebizond*, whom in the end they conquer and take him Prisoner: And so leaving one hundred thousand men in the Field, under the Command of *Baltasano*, *Don Bellianis* and the rest of his Friends and Alliance, with the rest of the Army, marched back with their Prisoners to *Babylon*.

IN some distress was the Emperor of Trebizond, by reason of his being closely besieged in the City of Pharez, but

the expectation he had to be relieved by his Friends, gave him some satisfaction, and still continued him in his former resolutions of not agreeing to the end of the War, unless it were on the Conditions he had formerly propounded to Don Bellianis, who you know was resolved rather to die than to yield to any such Proposals, and therefore he and the Prince of Numidia endeavored all they could to gain the City, but it was so well fortified that it was very difficult; however they caused the Mines to be made to undermine the Wall, but before they had ended that, News came of the Arrival of fresh Supplies to the Emperor, whereupon they prepared themselves to resist them, and to hinder (if possible) their entrance into the City.

But the Kings of Albania and Georgia who were arrived within three Leagues of the City, and heard that they must fight their way through the Soldans Army, prepared for the Encounter, and so in good order marched on until they arrived within sight of each other, and then Don Bellianis and Balrasano with fifty thousand well approved Knights likewise advanced to meet them, where they soon encountred one another.

The two Kings of Albania and Georgia being both valiant and redoubted knights, couching their Lances went to encounter the two Generals, the Princes of Greece and Numidia, who likewise couching their Lances ran against them, and breaking their Lances without much prejudice to one another, they galled on, and so both Armies joyned to mortal Battel, where great was the noise of the sound of Trumpets and all manner of other warlike Instruments, and the clashing of Armor: but greater was the terror that the two brave Generals Don Bellianis and Balrasano gave to their Enemies where ever they came, for whoever came within the reach of their well-cutting Swords, did pay dearly for that presumption. The two Kings of Albania and Georgia did likewise behave themselves like hardy knights, and valiant and discreet Generals, for their great and valorous Deeds gave both encouragement and valor to their followers. Very bloody was the Fight when News came to Don Bellianis to advertise him, that the Emperor with great Forces was come out of the City, and had assaulted his

his Camp. At which News he went to Baltasano, and advertising him thereof, they concluded that the presence of one of them would be very necessary, and therefore Don Bellianis out of the desire he had to be revenged on his Enemy and Rival the Emperor, chose to go thither and leave the Prince of Numidia to continue the Fight: which being agreed on he quickly departed, and arriving at his Camp he found that the Enemy had made a valiant Assault, and that they had been as well resisted by the two valiant Knights, the Knight of Hope, and the Knight of the Flaming Sword, who were fighting valiantly in the midst of the Emperors Forces: Don Bellianis seeing that encouraged them by his presence, and so departed to find out the Emperor, who at length he overtook, and knowing him by the many hardy strokes he saw him deliver, he cryed out to him, Sir Knight, you will gain more honor by leaving these people and fighting with me, who am resolved to conquer you or die. The Emperor hearing these words, soon turned about to see who had been so hardy as to speak them: but he was soon satisfied when he saw they were uttered by the valiant Knight of the Basilisks; wherefore leaving his other enemies he came towards Don Bellianis, and so they both making their ways through the Ranks of their Armies, joyned in fight together.

The Emperor heated in battel, gave Don Bellianis a mighty blow over the Helmet, but he soon requited it by returning him another on the shoulder, which descending, wounded him on the Arm. Thus was the Fight on all sides vigorously prosecuted: But the Kings of Albania and Georgia being wholly desirous to force their way into the City, made it their whole business to get thither, and so by degrees they got ground, till at length both the Armies came in sight of one another, and then the Emperors Forces seeing that they were likely to be so well relieved, gave a great shout, and joyned all their Forces together: the noise that they made gave some disquiet to Don Bellianis, who was still fighting with the Emperor, and being desirous to know what was the matter, he reached the Emperor so mighty a blow that he remained without feeling, and so

he turned his horse towards the place from whence the noise came, and then he soon discovered that the occasion of it was the arrival of the two Kings into the Army with their assistance. He presently rode furiously through all the Ranks of his Enemies, doing much execution, till he arrived at the place where the Prince of Numidia was engaged in fight with two mighty Giants; one of which he presently assailed, and with less than three strokes laid him dead at his feet, when turning about he saw that his Companion the Numidian had likewise killed the other: and so they both agreed to retire to their own Forces to see how the Fight was maintained, and so making their way by the death of many of their Adversaries, they arrived at their own Camp, where they saw the two Knights of Hope and the Flaming Sword, bravely engaged with six courageous Knights, and yet they defended themselves very valorously: they soon joyned with them to the loss of all the lives of the six Knights.

In the mean time the Emperor being free endeavored to withdraw his Forces, and so coming to the Kings of Albania and Georgia, after some Complements, he desired them likewise to draw off their Forces, which being done they all retired into the City, but with the loss of twenty thousand men, Don Bellianis and his Forces following them to the very Gates. When they were entered the City, the Emperor conducted the two Kings to the Pallace, where he entertaind them and gave them many thanks for this their aid and assistance, and then they concluded to rest their Forces for two days, and by that time the Emperor told them he was confident he should not only have aid from the Emperor of Russia, but likewise more of his own, and so soon as they were arrived he intended to take the Field, not questioning but he should quickly force the Enemy to leave his Countrey.

Don Bellianis and the Prince of Numidia retired up to their Camp, and resolved very suddenly to give them a general Assault: but the next day the Forces of the Emperor of Russia arrived, and in despight of Don Bellianis entrenched themselves and kept the Field. The Emperor being thus well relieved, resolved

reſolved now to take the Field, and give a Field-battel to his Enemies, which he concluded to do the next day: and in order thereunto, early the next morning he with one hundred thouſand men under his own Conduct iſſued out of the City, one hundred thouſand men under the Conduct of the two Kings of Albania and Georgia, and fifty thouſand men under the Command of the Knight of the Tyger, Kinſman to the Emperor of Ruſſia, who had brought thoſe Forces thither.

In this equipage the Emperor was in the Field, and on the other ſide the two Generals Don Bellianis and Baltaſano, divided their Forces onely into two parts, and reſolving on all ſides to fight valiantly and conquer their Enemies, they bravely aſſailed each other: Bloody was the Fight in all places, ſo that ſoon was the Fields green Apparel turned into purple. The Generals on all ſides performed wonders: the Emperor on his part did very valiantly, reſolving to get the Field or never return to the City: and Don Bellianis being reſolved this day to ſhew the invincibleneſs of his Courage, he being accompanied by five hundred Knights, as his Guard, in deſpight of all oppoſition forced his way into the Camp of his Enemies, where with his own Arm he ſoon killed fifty Knights, and thoſe who followed him imitating his Example, ſlew many of their Enemies.

The Prince of Numidia had likewiſe in another place forced his way into his Enemies Camp, and there he encountred the Knight of the Tyger, who was encompaſſed with ten ſtrong Gyants, but maugre all their oppoſition he furiouſly forced his way through them, and aſſaulted the Knight of the Tyger with ſo mighty a blow on the head, ſo that he was not onely aſtoniſhed, but the Sword falling on the horſe his head, cleaved him down right, and he fell down dead under his Maſter. The Gyants who were near him ſoon aſſiſted him, and mounted him on another horſe, but it coſt two of them their lives, the one being ſlain by the Prince of Numidia, and the other by the Knight of Hope, who was now arrived with ſome Forces to the place where Baltaſano was, and then they all joyned Forces, and the Knight of the Tyger being very valiant, revenged him-

ſelf

ſelf by the loſs of the lives of many of his Enemies.

Don Bellianis having run through his Enemies Camp with great fury, returned and rode up and down to finde out his Rival the Emperor, whom at length he found out and encountred, and many fierce ſtrokes were given to one another, the Emperor reſolving to revenge himſelf on Don Bellianis, ſhewed the utmoſt of his skill and courage, and gave him a blow on the Thigh, ſo that the blood iſſued out thereat through the Joynts of his Armor: he was greatly enraged hereat, and gave the Emperor another wound on the ſide: thus they continued fighting together, till at length the multitudes of both Parties came to aſſault each other parted them, and then they ranged about the Field killing and deſtroying many Knights.

It was now the Monday, and the Fight had continued eight hours, and yet there was not much advantage on either ſide, till they heard the ſound of Trumpets, and at ſome diſtance they might perceive freſh Forces enter the Field, but to which they belonged it was yet unknown: at length they arrived in ſight, and then by their Colours they were known to belong to the Emperor, and indeed they were forty thouſand men under the Conduct of the Knight of Fame, Nephew to the Emperor, who hearing of the Fight made haſte thither, thinking to get Honor in the Battel, but he fared not ſo well as he expected, as we ſhall declare to you anon.

Don Bellianis ſeeing this, quickly drew out forty thouſand of his men and went to meet him, and taking a new Lance couched the ſame, and ran furiouſly againſt his Enemy, who did the like, but not with the ſame advantage; for Don Bellianis onely loſt one of his ſtirrops, but his Enemy came horſe and man to the ground. He ſoon recovered himſelf, and being angry at his misfortune, revenged himſelf by the death of ſix Knights, whom he ſoon killed or overthrew: thus was theſe two Battels joyned, but Don Bellianis ſoon abated ſome of the vigor of his Enemies by the puiſſant and mighty ſtrokes he gave them, killing ten Knights ere he brake his Lance, and then drawing his Sword he ſoon after ſent twenty Knights more to accompany

pany their Companions, so that now they were not so furious to assault him as they had ben: He quickly made his way through all his Squadron, and having testified to them his strength and valor, returned and went to assault the Knight of Fame, who was now engaged with his Enemies: but at the arrival of Don Bellianis they soon gave way to him, and he reached him a mighty blow on the head, so that his Helmet flew from his head, and he was likewise wounded, and Don Bellianis intending to give him a second blow, was prevented, for two furious Giants opposed themselves to him: but he who was used to deal well enough with these sort of people soon let them know his valor by the cutting off one of their legs.

In the mean time the Knight of Fame had recovered another Helmet, and came to revenge himself on Don Bellianis, so that now he was engaged both by a Giant and the Knight of Fame, but he did well enough to maintain the fight with them both. In the mean time the two Kings of Albania and Georgia had engaged themselves among their Enemies, and at last they arrived where the Emperor was engaged, but they brought him such Aid that he caused the Soudans Forces to retire, and many of them lost their lives, so that they being without any valiant Commander did in a manner flie: this gave great encouragement to the Emperor and the two Kings, and they pursued them some way, till they saw a Body of men afar off who came on a great pace, and the nearer they approached the more they appeared, and at length they were likewise known to be Forces of the Soudans: This caused the Emperor and those that were with him to make a stand, much wondring at this business, and not daring to go any further. They made up towards them a great pace, and meeting with some of those who fled, informed themselves of the manner of the fight, and caused them to face about and return on their Enemies.

The Emperor seing this was resolved to receive them, but they still made hast, and arriving near the Emperors Forces, six Knights advancing forwards and couching their Lances, ran upon the Emperor and his Forces, and with the furiousness of the Encounter they dismounted five Knights that opposed

poled them, and the Emperor who was the firſt, loſt both his Stirrops; they quickly paſſed on and ran furiouſly into their Enemies Squadrons, and ſhewed the admirableneſs of their valor by the mighty blows they gave, for in leſs than a quarter of an hour they had ſlain and diſmounted above a hundred Knights: and in this time their Forces by their example followed them, and joyning with their Enemies ſoon compelled them, in deſpight of the Emperor and the two Kings of Albania and Georgia, to retire to the reſt of the Army. When they were all arrived there they gave a loud ſhout, and cryed out, Babylon, Babylon: This noiſe gave a freſh Alarm to the Armies, and Don Bellianis wondring thereat, went to ſee the occaſion, doubting that the Enemy had got more Aid: but he was ſoon ſatisfied of the contrary, for he knew the Common Soldiers by their Colours: but he was much more aſtoniſhed when he ſaw the incomparable Deeds of the ſix valiant Champions, and indeed they were all unknown to him, he coming nearer to them diſcovered one of them by his Armor to be Coſtumeliano Prince of Phenicia, wherefore he went to him, and ſaid: Ah worthy Friend! great paines have you taken to come thus far to my aſſiſtance: the Phenician courteouſly replied to him, Noble Prince, I ſhould not think it any trouble to travel throughout the whole world to ſerve you, eſpecially in ſo good company as I have brought with me; then he knowing that Don Bellianis was willing to be informed who were in his company, told him that his Companions were his two valiant Brothers, Don Glarineo and Don Lucidamore, and his Couſin Floriſpiano of Swevia, and the two other Knights were ſomewhat ſtrangers, but both valiant Knights; and ſo they were indeed, the one being the valiant Peter of Ireland, Knight of the Keys, and the other the Knight of the Wolf, and that they had brought from the Souldan of Babylon fifty thouſand men for his aſſiſtance.

Don Bellianis being very joyful hereat ſoon entred the Fight, and was now again reſolved to conquer or die, and that this day ſhould put an end to the War: In this reſolution he went to his Companion the Prince of Numidia, and informed him hereof,

herrof, and telling him that he would with a Party of Horſe break through his Enemies Forces, and get between them and the City and hinder their entrance, and that he would onely deſire him to proſecute the Fight, aſſuring him that there were ſuch valiant Knights come, that he queſtioned not to have the Victory.

Thus did he leave the Numidian and went to execute his purpoſe, and ſo he did, and ſoon brake through the Forces of the Enemy. The Prince of Numidia being thus encouraged drew up all his Forces and freſhly aſſailed his Enemies, and in ſhort time by the aſſiſtance of the ſix Champions, and the Forces they brought, he got ſo great advantage of his Enemies, that he forced them to retire; which they did not do ſo well but that many of them were ſlain. Among the reſt, Peter of Ireland did gloriouſly; for he ſlew the Knight of Fame, Couſin to the Emperor, and many Knights and Spants that were near him. The two Princes Clarineo and Lucidamore took the King of Georgia Priſoner, maugre the reſiſtance of all his Guards, and the Knight of the Tyger hardly eſcaped with life, being very much wounded by Contumeliano Prince of Phenicia.

The Emperor of Trebizond ſeeing that by the means of this freſh Supply he ſhould loſe the Day, reſolved to retire before he ſhould be quite vanquiſhed, wherefore he cauſed a Retreat to be ſounded, and ſo retired to enter the City, but Don Bellianis who expected him, hindred him there-from and fiercely aſſaulted him: greatly ſurprized was the Emperor when he ſaw himſelf aſſaulted on both ſides, wherefore he advanced forwards to ſee who it was that hindered his Retreat; but he was ſo bravely received by his Rival, that notwithſtanding his utmoſt endeavors he could not get off; but after he had received many wounds by Don Bellianis, was taken Priſoner: the reſt of his Forces in the mean time ſeeing the Field loſt, left him and fled in great diſorder into the City.

Great was the ſorrow in the City for the loſs of the Emperor, they not yet knowing whether he were alive or dead, none of the Commanders returned back but the King of Albania: the King of Georgia being taken, and the Knight of Fame being

killed, the Knight of the Tyger was brought in wounded, and thus the Night being come the Horror of the day was covered.

Don Bellianis seeing the Emperors Forces were got into the City, caused a Retreat to be sounded, and so repaired to his Tent, which was set up near the City Walls, and the prince of Numidia being come to him, they delivered the two Prisoners, the Emperor and the King of Georgia, into safe custody under a strong Guard, commanded by the Knight of Hope, and then they sent for all those valiant Knights who had assisted them. They quickly came to the Tent, where they were kindly embraced by the two Generals, the Prince of Numidia being very joyful to see his Friend Don Bellianis his two Brothers, who had discovered themselves: they were on all sides joyful for this happy meeting, and much more in that it had been so fortunate.

The Prince Don Clarineo delivered two Letters to his Brother, one from the Souldan, and another from his Daughter the Princess Florisbella. Don Bellianis looking on that from the Souldan, was greatly abashed when he saw the Superscription to be thus: For the most accomplished Prince and valiant Knight, *Don Bellianis* of *Greece*: but he was astonished when he had opened it, and found therein these Lines:

The LETTER *of the Souldan of* Babylon, *to* Don Bellianis *of Greece.*

Noble Prince,

I Must beg excuse for the mean Treatment I gave you, the cause was my ignorance of your Quality: had I known your Princely Extraction I should have used you like the Son of so great an Emperor as is the Emperor of *Greece*: but your Vertues and Magnanimity did well enough declare your Descent; wherefore I once again ask your Pardon, and do promise you as a requital, my true Friendship, and so soon as by your incomparable Valor you have put some end to this War, I shall desire your presence, that we may by some Action testifie the Esteem we have of your Friendship. We question not but you will receive a satisfactory Answer from

from the Princess our Daughter, who testifies not onely a Respect, but some Affection for you, and assure your self that we shall not hinder it, but give her her freedom, which we suppose will be to your satisfaction. We have gained so much favor for your sake, as to have the Assistance of your Brothers and Relations, whom we have sent here with some Supplies, and do intend to send you more, if occasion be, but we hope that this will be enough, not onely to make our Enemy to be reasonable, but also to give him some sensible trouble for that he hath given us. Thus desiring of the Gods a Protection for you, We rest

Your Friend,

The Souldan.

Great was the astonishment and joy of Don Bellianis at this Letter, now concluding himself to be the happiest of all men living. Having read this Letter, he omitted the reading of the other for a more private occasion, and so again welcomed his Friends, but especially the valiant Knight Peter of Ireland, who was a stranger to him, and in whom he saw a great magnanimity. Thus leaving all Consultations till the morning, every one departed to Tents provided for them: After they were departed, Don Bellianis breaking open the Letter from the Princess Florisbella, he found in it thus written:

The LETTER *of the Princess* Florisbella, *to* Don Bellianis.

SIR,

YOur Letter gave me much satisfaction, but your presence would give me much more; and now the arrival of your Brethren and Relations with a Letter from my Cousin the Princess *Aurora*, hath given that satisfaction to my Father that I was in much trouble how to do it. He is very well acquainted with your Condition, and hath desired me to accept you for my Knight which he needed not to have desired, had he known how deeply your dear remembrance is fixed in my heart: in fine, there wants

nothing now but your presence to make me happy, and I question not but this will the more stir you to the destruction of your Rival, who I account for my mortal enemy; yet although I desire his ruine, I would not have it purchased with your danger, therefore as you are mine, fail not to preserve your self, and hazard not your person beyond the ordinary. I hope the arrival of these your Relations, and the Forces they bring with them will put an end to the War, that my trouble for you may end with your presence, which I continually wish for. My Cousin *Mattarosa* fails not to keep you in my remembrance, although she needs not give her self that trouble; however 'tis a pleasure for me continually to hear of you: all that I desire is, that I may see you with all expedition. that I may have the satisfaction of your Company, in the mean time I will prepare things with my Mother that shall be to your satisfaction; I pray for the future question not my Constancy, but assure your self I shall ever be

Your constant Friend,

Florisbella.

Don Bellianis having read this Letter kissed it a thousand times, and could not satisfie himself with once reading of it, so pleasant were these charming Lines, and in this satisfaction he went to rest, where though he took little up reason of the great content he had received by the Letters, yet he was up early the next morning, and mounting on his horse he viewed the Field, which was the bloodiest spectacle that ever was beheld, it being bestrewed with the bodies of almost two hundred thousand men, whereof one hundred and fifty thousand were of the Enemies. Afterwards he retired into his Tent, where some of the Commanders and Knights were come to wait on him to know his pleasure, so he sent for the rest of the Chief of the Officers, who entering into Consultation, did resolve to leave the Field in possession of Baltasano, and one hundred thousand men to prosecute the War, and he and the rest would return with their Prisoners to Babylon, to know the pleasure of the Soudan. This was generally well liked of, and accordingly

ingly executed, so that the next day they departed, as they had agreed, and marched towards Babylon.

CHAP. XXXII.

How *Magdalena* Princess of *Sardinia* being left alone in the Island of *Scicillia*, made a great Complaint for the absence of her Knight *Peter, Knight of the Keys*, and how she travelled into *Ireland* to find him out, where missing him she caused a Monastery to be built, resolving there to live in disguise in expectation of his return.

WE will now for some time leave the Princes Don Bellianis of Greece, and his Brethren and Companions, with their Prisoners and others in their return to Babylon, who marched thither-ward in great content and pleasure, they being greatly satisfied in what they had done, onely Peter of Ireland still continued extreamly discontented for the loss of his dear Lady the Princess Magdalena, to whom we will return, who as we told you was left in the Island of Sicillia, being very weary of her travel, slept a great while, but at length she awaked, and fetching a deep sigh, lifted up her head, and looking about her for her Knight, she could not see him; whereupon she arose from the ground, and walking about she could not finde him, at which she much wondred; and in great perplexity she made many turnings and walks about the place where she lay, sometimes she went to the water side to look that ways, and then again she returned, but altogether unsatisfied; at length the night grew on and he returned not, then was she much dismaied, and fell into these grievous Lamentations:

Oh unfortunate Princess! how much unhappiness hath thy rashness caused thee already, and to what end will this turn? but yet how could I expect any blessing in my actions, having left my Parents and Friends, who it may be at this time are in as great perplexity for my departure as I am in, and it is but the Justice of Heaven that I should bear them

company

company in their Complaints: but alas they are safe and well in their own Court, and I am here in a strange place, having newly escaped the danger of the Seas, in which it had been better I had been drowned, than now to be devoured by wilde Beasts, or to expect a worser death: It had been far better for me to have lost my life in the Seas, for then I should have had my beloved Friend to have born me company, but now I must perish alone and most miserable. Ah Knight of the Keys, what is become of thee? whither art thou gone? certainly this was not done by thy good will, for so much barbarousness could not enter the heart of any man, as to leave me here in such an inhumane manner. But why should I condemn thee, or complain on thee, for certainly thou dost more deserve my pity than anger: it may be thou by some mischance wandring in these Woods art devoured by wilde Beasts, who have by this time entombed thee in their hungry Paws. Oh that I were certain of that, and that I knew where that beast should remain, I would go seek him out and offer my self to be devoured by him, so that I might at least accompany thee in death.

Having thus finished her Lamentation, she with extream grief fell down to the ground; but bethinking her self that she was a Christian, and therefore was bound to preserve her life so long as she could, she arose and sought about for a place at present to lie down more conveniently to repose her self till the morning: after some travel she found a place near the water side that was somewhat commodious for that purpose, being encompassed with great Reeds, where she laid her self down expecting the morning; which being come, she not having taken any rest, arose; and not knowing what to do, nor whither to go, being in a great Wood, at length with much difficulty climbed up a Tree, and being come to the top looked about her, to see if she could discover any Houses or People: At length she saw some People afar off walking, being glad of that, descended the Tree and went towards that place, which was a Common Road; and seeing people coming she retired into the Wood a little way, to consider with her self what was necessary

ceſſary to be done. Then ſhe reſolved not to go home to her Father, but rather to travel towards Ireland the Countrey of her dearly beloved Knight, believing that if he eſcaped with life he would go thither, and thither ſhe intended to go and expect him: but the habit ſhe was in being very gorgeous and coſtly, ſhe knew that it would be very inconvenient to travel in, and therefore ſhe reſolved with the firſt conveniency to alter her Apparel: ſhe quickly had the opportunity of putting this her reſolution into execution; for the next woman that went by was a Pilgrim, to whom ſhe went, and deſiring her to come a little out of the way they retired into the Wood, where the Princeſs told her that ſhe had a requeſt to make to her, which ſhe deſired her to grant, and that it could not be in the leaſt to her prejudice.

The good woman ſeing her in ſo rich Apparel, thought that it would be ill manners in her to deny her any thing, and therefore ſhe conſented to her Requeſt: Then the Princeſs told her that ſhe deſired her to exchange her Apparel with her. The woman at firſt was unwilling, but at length ſhe conſented, and ſo changing their Habits, ſhe Princeſs likewiſe gave her ſome money, and ſo they parted.

The Princeſs being thus accoutred, deſired to know the way to the next Port Town, to which ſhe travelled, and being come thither, ſhe deſired to embarque her ſelf: and enquiring for ſhipping ſhe found one going for England, into which ſhe embarqued her ſelf, reſolving never to return to her Father, but ſtill to travel in ſearch of her Knight.

The Ship in thoſe time arrived at England, and there ſhe was expoſed to a new travel through that Countrey, and then taking ſhipping again ſhe went for Ireland, where when ſhe arrived ſhe travelled towards Wexford, the place of her dear Knights Nativity: At length ſhe arrived there, and enquiring for the Earl his Father, found him and all his Family in much diſcontent for the abſence of his Son.

Thus being arrived here, and reſolving to abide in this place, ſhe imployed Workmen to build a ſmall Monaſtery with the Money ſhe brought from her Fathers Court, and when it was

built

builded the Dedicated it to the Honor of Saint Peter the Holy Apostle, in memory of her dear Knight.

In this place she enclosed her self, resolving to live a religious Life all her days in expectation of the return of her dearly beloved Knight. Here she got an acquaintance with the Earl and Countess, Father and Mother to the Knight of the Keys, who seeing her of so Religious a Life and Conversation, acquainted themselves with her, delighting much in her Society, and likewise did very much countenance her in her Undertakings, and oftentimes invited her home to their Habitation: to which place she sometimes went, otherwise she never departed from her Monastery, still entertaining poor sick Travellers therein. Thus did she shut up her self from all the World, while he was much afflicted for her absence, and was in continual care and trouble for her Loss.

CHAP. XXIII.

How the Earl of *Munster* and his Wife the Countess did believe their Son *Peter* to be drowned, and how they informed the Holy *Magdalena* thereof, and of the great Sorrow they all made.

THus continued these Personages, the Earl and his Wife, and the Holy Magdalena, in continual care and fear, but they were all continually in hopes one day to hear of the safe Return of their Son and Friend: but they were much perplexed at an Adventure that happed one day, which was in this manner.

Certain Fisher-men having been abroad at Sea a fishing, amongst other Fishes which they caught one happed to be a very fair Sturgeon, at which they wondred, and at their return to Wexford they went to the Earl, and presented the Fish as a great Novelty to him: the which he thankfully received, and shewing the same to his Countess, she caused it immediately to be cut in pieces: But oh strange Accident! in the Belly of this Fish she discovered somewhat that was red, which having ta-

ken

ken out, they found it to be a red Purse of Cloth, and having opened the same there was in it three Jewels, which she earnestly beholding, knew to be the same she had delivered to her Son Peter at such time as he departed from her, when he first began his Travels.

This sight gave her great astonishment, and she going immediately to the Earl her Husband shewed them to him, and he knowing them was as much troubled, and then they certainly concluded and saw that all their hopes of the Return of their Son Peter was in vain; for they verily believed that he had been cast away at Sea, and the Fishes had devoured him: and in this opinion they remained, making great Lamentations for the loss of him, never more expecting to see him. Then they immediately put themselves and all their Family into Mourning Apparel, and hung all their House in Mourning, and ordered every thing as if he had been certainly dead, and they had seen him buried, so confident were they of the truth of this adventure. And thus continued they in great and private mourning for many days, being seen of none but their own Family. So soon as the Countess went abroad, she went to the Monastery to visit the Holy Magdalena, where when she was arrived she expressed by her outward looks and habit, the inward sorrow of her minde.

The Holy Maid being desirous to know the occasion of this, believing it to be some extraordinary matter, desired the Countess to inform her of the cause of her immoderate sorrow, the which she did with many tears, and the Holy Maid accompanied her in her tears, verily believing this to be true, and that now she should never more see her dear Knight Peter. The Countess supposing that she shed those tears out of affection to her loss, thinking to be consolated by her, was forced her self to give her some consolation, so great was her grief, but she little thought that the Holy Maid was so deeply concerned in this occasion.

After many lamentations and tears, the Countess desired the Holy Maid that she would come and visit her oftener, that they might lament together, and so she departed, leaving the

fair Magdalena in the greatest grief in the world. The Countess being gone, she retired her self into her Chamber, where throwing her self upon her Bed, she thus began: Ah unfortunate Maid, how far better had it been that thou hadst never been born, than thou shouldst be the occasion of so much grief: I was the cause that the good Knight Peter adventured himself in such manner, that he has now left his life; and therefore it is my cause that so much grief is come to his Parents for his loss. Certainly he loving of me, hath travelled so many Countreys in searching for me, that he is now cast away at Sea and become food for Fishes. It had been much better that I had never been fair, or at least that I had never consented to have left my Parents, so to torment and afflict them; but Heaven is just and hath now deservedly sent this loss to punish me for my disobedience: Ah what shall now become of me? I shall never again see the face of my dear Knight, nor never give any comfort to my dear Parents in my sight, for (since I have been so unfortunate) here will I end my life, and for the future do better service to God for the expiation of my sins.

Thus did she lament, and thus continued she in this place in the greatest devotion in the world, never stirring out but to the Earls, where she went sometimes, to accompany them in their Lamentations for the loss of their Son and her Friend, resolving that so long as she lived she would not discover her Quality and Condition to any one: and in this place we must for some time leave her, and return to her dearly beloved Peter, and the rest of the Princes and Knights who were in their way to Babylon: but we will first by the way tell you the News that came to Babylon to the Soudan and the fair Princess Florisbella.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIV.

How News came to the Souldan at *Babylon* of the Victory obtained againſt the Emperor of *Trebizond*, and how the Souldan and many of his Court went out to meet *Don Bellianis* and his Companions.

THe Souldan of Babylon was very joyful for the Arrival of the two Princes Clarineo and Lucidamore, Brothers to Don Bellianis and the reſt of the Knights their Companions, and he and all his Court had much hope that they and the Forces which they conducted to Don Bellianis, would be able to reduce the Emperor of Trebizond to better termes than had been already propounded. The Princeſſes Florisbella and Matraroſa were greatly ſatisfied at the Arrival of the Knights, and did both believe that in ſhort time they ſhould have the company of their Knights; and therefore the Princeſs Florisbella endeavored to put her Affairs into ſuch order, that Don Bellianis at his return might give her and himſelf the ſatisfaction ſhe deſired, wherefore ſhe taking an opportunity when onely her ſelf, and Mother, and her Couſin the Princeſs Matraroſa were together, ſhe began to her Mother thus:

Madam, good fortune have we had, that the Gods have at ſo neceſſary a time as this, ſent us ſo valiant Knights to defend our Empire when it was moſt in danger: but withal I am very ſorry and diſcontented that my perſon ſhould give ſo great an occaſion, as to endanger the lives of ſuch valiant Knights, and I would to the Gods that we could invent ſome way to prevent this trouble for the future.

The Empreſs replied, I queſtion not Daughter, but what Forces are already gone (with the aſſiſtance of the Gods, a juſt Cauſe, and the Aid of ſo many brave Princes and Knights) will be able without any more trouble to bring home Victory, or at leaſt to force the Emperor of Trebizond to ſuch a Peace as ſhall be as diſadvantagious to him, as he intended to us: but there is ſomething elſe further to be conſidered of, for ſo

long as you remain unmarried, you being the onely Heir of this Empire, we shall be in the like danger, either the love or ambition of some Persons will readily prompt them to give us a trouble; therefore dear Daughter, since your years of childehood are past, and you are capable of making a Choice, it would be necessary and convenient for you, amongst so many Princes and great Personages that sue for your favor, that you would chuse one whom you think fit to make your Husband, that thereby all the rest may be satisfied, and we left quiet, and that your Father and I in our old age may live without this trouble.

Madam, replied the Princess, if either you or my Father would propound some one that were fitting for my Quality and Condition, I should be ready to bend my inclinations towards him, and willingly content you therein.

Madam, said the Princess Mattarosa, I suppose the Princess my Cousin would willingly satisfie your self and her Father in this particular: but if you please to hear my advice, I shall endeavor to please you both. I believe it the most necessary thing to be considered of in this Choice, to have one that shall be both valiant and able to defend this Countrey from all its Enemies: these Wars have testified that you have Enemies, and therefore it is necessary as well to prevent a future danger as to end this: there are several brave Princes and Knights engaged in this war, and out of the same one might be thought of, that might be a fit Match, and if I may with freedom speak I shall name the Person.

The Empress who had heard her Cousin, liked well of her counsel, and therefore told her that she should willingly not only hear her, but also give her consent thereto, provided it were such a person as was every way both by Descent and Valor, deserving, and if her Daughters good will and inclination were added thereto.

The Princess Mattarosa (very well knowing that she should give no distaste to her Cousin in proceeding) replied, That the person whom she thought most fit for a Husband for her Cousin was the most accomplished Person for Valor, Vertue, and

Princely

Princely Deſcent in the whole world, and the perſon that that Empire and they all were moſt obliged to: and, ſaith ſhe, I ſhall not need to name him further, for this Character does ſufficiently teſtifie that it can be none other but the Prince Don Bellianis of Greece.

The Empereſs replyed, That truly ſhe always had a very great eſteem for that Prince, and ſhe ſuppoſed that gratitude had cauſed ſome inclination in her Daughters minde; and ſays ſhe, I am ſure that he has deſerved more of him than all men living: and could I finde that ſhe would be willing to accept of him, I would not onely give my own conſent to the match, but I would endeavor to perſwade the Soudan my Husband thereto, and I queſtion not but the many Services which that good Prince hath done him, will engage him to give him that ſatisfaction, if he deſires it.

As for that Madam, ſaid Matarosa, I am ſure that the valiant Prince Don Bellianis is extreamly amorous of my Couſin Florisbella, and that it hath been the ſole cauſe of his coming hither, which hath been ſo much for the advantage of us all, he himſelf told me this, and I think my ſelf not onely obliged to tell you, but to do what elſe for him I can.

The Princeſs Florisbella ſeeing things brought to this paſs, thus anſwered them, Dear Mother, ſince it is your pleaſure for me to ſpeak in this occaſion, I ſhall do it with all freedom, and therefore aſſure your ſelf that ever ſince I firſt ſaw the Prince Don Bellianis, I have had a very great inclination for him, but I have ſmothered it till now I hear he is a Perſon not onely fit by his worth and deſert, but your eſteem of him to be ſo, and therefore if you and my Father ſhould be ſo contented, I ſhall think my ſelf happy in having a perſon ſo every way accomplished for my Husband, and I queſtion not but his worth will ſufficiently plead for him to my Father.

The Empereſs being highly ſatisfied in the Anſwer of her Daughter, ſaid that ſhe would immediately take ſuch Orders with the Soudan, as ſhe would not onely know his mind herein, but alſo if occaſion be, perſwade him thereto to the ſatisfaction of all, and ſo ſhe departed from her Couſin and Daughter,

leaving

leaving them in the greatest satisfaction in the world.

The Empress went to the Souldan her Husband, and discoursed of this matter to him, who was so pleased therewith, that there was nothing wanting but the presence of Don Bellianis to put a conclusion to the matter, and therefore they all wished for an end of the war. In these storms they were when a Knight armed at all points came into the presence of the Souldan, and using his ordinary Reverence, told him that he came from the valiant Prince Don Bellianis, and his Companions, and had brought a Letter to him, and thereupon the Souldan caused it to be opened, wherein he found these words written.

The Letter *of* Don Bellianis *to the Souldan of* Babylon.

Dread Lord,

Since my last to you, our Success in your Wars hath been very various, for the Emperor of *Trebizond* continuing in his wilfulness, endeavored all he could to lengthen the War, which he effected by the continual arrival of fresh Forces: but however the Justice of your Cause gave us sufficient Success; for although your Forces did rather diminish than encrease, yet we still joyned the better: At length we being wearied with the tediousness of the War, resolved though to our disadvantage, to hazard all in one Battel which we both began and continued with equal success till new Forces arriving at his Army somewhat discouraged your Soldiers; but however I resolved to put an end to the War with that one days Battel, if possible, and therefore giving your Forces fresh encouragement, by my endeavours we continued the Fight; but most fortunate was it for us that those Forces you sent under the Conduct of my Brothers and Friends, came at that time so opportunely, for it so discouraged our Enemies, and gave so much encouragement to your Soldiers, that all resolved to make this use thereof, either to conquer or die. This their Resolution they well enough performed, for after a long and bloody Battel, our Enemies

mies were forced out of the Field (which they had before kept) into the City, to their great loss: not onely the Common Soldiers and many brave Knights suffered and lost their lives, but the Chief Commanders also. The Emperor it was my fortune to take Prisoner, and the King of *Georgia* who had assisted him with fifty thousand men, was taken by my two Brethren, and the rest put to flight, so that we may conclude the War to be at an end. I have left the City with a hundred thousand men besieged by *Don Baltasano*, and with the rest am coming towards *Babylon*, to know your further Commands, which what ever they be, shall be surely executed, for since your incomparable Daughter hath had so much goodness, as to admit me to the honor of being her Servant, I find my self capable for any attempt.

I shall bring with me the Emperor, whose presumption gave her a discontent, who shall either ask her pardon for his so bold attempt, or be otherwise disposed of as you shall think fit. I thought good to send you this Messenger, that you might participate in the Contentment we all receive by this Victory, which you may account absolute, or else if you please to command it shall be quickly perfected, either to the gaining of the Empire of *Trebizond*, or what other Kingdoms you shall please, or else to the loss of the life of

Your humblest Servant,

Don Bellianis.

If this News was pleasing to the Souldan you may easily judge, and he soon expressed it by his Commands that a general Ringing should be made throughout his whole Empire: And he then immediately assembled his Councel together, to advise what was necessary to be done; wherein it was concluded that he himself and all the Grandees of his Court, and all the Forces that were then in the City prepared for the War, should the next day march in triumph to meet the valiant Don Bellianis and his worthy Companions.

The Princess Florisbella was soon informed of this Victory, not onely by that Letter of her Fathers, but by one of her own

own sent by Don Bellianis to her, which when she had received it, she opened and read as followeth.

The LETTER *of* Don Bellianis *to the Princess* Florisbella.

Dear Princess,

THe tediousnes of the War hath given me a very sensible trouble, not for any thing of difficulty I found therein, but for my absence from your Divine Presence: but now (thanks to the Gods) we have put a Period thereto, the Justice of your Cause commanding no less; for we have not onely sacrificed the lives of many of of your Enemies to your just Anger, but I have in my custody the persons of two of the most considerable, the Emperor your Grand Enemy, and the King of *Georgia* one of his Alliance. I beg an Excuse for my not giving you a particular account of our Battel and Victory, doubting the tediousnes thereof would displease you. I shall bring the Emperor my Rival into your presence, but I suppose he will not be so impudent as to persevere in his wilfulnes of having your Divine Person at his dispose, nor at the least discontent you; if I thought he would, I should hinder him there from by bereaving him of his life: It was my intention to have sacrificed his life long since to your just displeasure, and thereby have rid my selfof a Rival; but he fell into my hands at such a time that I could not in point of Honor kill him, wherefore he shall come and receive his Doom from your own mouth, and I am indifferent whether you give him life or death, so you will pronounce so favourable a Sentence for me, that I may enjoy that with your good will which he would have compelled you to. Madam, I hope, and partly expect your performance of this, not for any merit or defect of my own, but out of the excess of goodnes and mercy the Gods have so plentifully endued you withal. Madam I shall now cease writing till I come to your presence, but be confident of this that I shall never cease to be

The humblest of your Servants,
Don Bellianis.

The

The Princess was sufficiently satisfied in the receipt of this Letter, but she hoped for a further satisfaction in that of his presence, which she expected in a few days, and was glad she had used the late discourse with her Mother. Thus was both Court and City in great content, and the Souldan the next day went out of the City, accompanied by his Nobility and many others, to meet the Prince Don Bellianis and his Companions.

CHAP. XXV.

How the Souldan of *Babylon* met the Prince *Don Bellianis* and his Companions, and how they all arrived at the City of *Babylon*.

With great content and pleasure did the Souldan and all his Company ride to meet Don Bellianis and all his Companions, who were all merry and joyned for the good fortune they had in vanquishing their Enemies; but he who was best pleased was Don Bellianis himself, in that now he was so near the presence of his Honorable Lady, at whose hands he hoped to receive so much favor, as would sufficiently satisfie him for all his pains and travel. Thus did they all ride on, when coming within half a days Journey of Babylon, a Messenger came to them to inform them that the Souldan himself in person, and several of his Grandees and Nobility, were in the way coming to meet them: At which News they all put themselves in order to receive him, and so in very good order they marched forwards: Don Bellianis being mounted on a stately Horse came in the Front, riding between his two Princely Brothers Don Clarineo, and Don Lucidamore, next to them came the four valiant Knights, Contumeliano of Phenicia, Florispiano of Swevia, Peter of Ireland, and Trion Knight of the Wolf, and all the rest of the other Knights and great Personages in good order. In this equipage and order did they march when the Souldan and his Followers met them. At the sight of whom Don Bellianis lightly leaping from his Horse, marched on foot to the Souldan, who seeing him dismounted did like-

wise alight, and Don Bellianis falling on his knee, humbly desired the Souldan to permit him to kiss his hands: but the Souldan refusing that, caused him to arise, and then the other Knights being come together, the Souldan having imbraced Don Bellianis with much affection in the sight of all those many worthy Personages, then in the hearing of them all he said as followeth:

Most Mighty Prince, We have great Cause to be thankful to the Gods for the Mercy they have shewed us, in sending you into this Countrey at a time when we were in so great distress; for without your presence we had all e're this time bin in so great a strait, that our fortunes, nay our very lives had been in very great hazard: there is none of us here but if he enjoys Wife, Children, or Estate, or Liberty, is obliged to you for the protection thereof, so that this whole Empire is of right belonging to you, it having been so marvellously protected, and miraculously defended by your invincible Valor. Therefore most noble Prince, as all We have or enjoy is absolutely your Right to possess, so let us know what, or how We shall make you some satisfaction: As for our own part, Our Self, Our Empress, and Our Daughter, shall be wholly at your disposé, and we shall all joyfully obey your just Desires or Commands, knowing that the Gods who have endowed you with so much Valor, have certainly bestowed on you the like quantity of Vertue; and therefore most Noble Prince, I beseech you let us know your desires, and they shall be absolutely performed and obeyed.

Don Bellianis held his peace with very much difficulty, being very unwilling to hear the Souldan go on in such Commendations of him, but withal he was unwilling to interrupt him till he had done: but so soon as he saw he had ended his Discourse, he thus replied:

Most redoubted Souldan, I am very sorry that I should give your Highness so much trouble, as to come thus far to meet your poor Servants, but much more discontented and ashamed that you should here before this Noble Company heap so many commendations

dations on me who have acted the least of all this Company: but if I had done any thing worthy of note, it is no more than I am bound by the Order of Knighthood, and the Bonds of Civility and true Vertue to do; for what I have done hath been to relieve the oppressed, and nothing but Justice; with which Actions the Heavens are pleased we should exercise our selves, and for that end are we created, one bare acknowledgment is a sufficient recompense: but what I have performed has been by vertue of the Commands of that Incomparable Princess your Daughter, who hath made me so happy as to admit me to be her Servant, and in whose just quarrel I shall dare to do any thing that she shall further command me, not questioning but her goodness will give me a reward sufficient: and if you please to let me continue her Servant, and give me freedom in that, I shall esteem my self in the greatest height of happiness.

To this the Soudan replied, Prince of *Greece*, I am so far satisfied in my Daughters minde, that she has not onely a great esteem of your Vertues, but also an affection for your Person, and if you are pleased with her, and think the enjoyment of her Person will be any recompence for your great Labors, be confident that you may have a free possession thereof, and we shal think our selves happy that we can have so brave a Prince for our Son in Law, by whose power and magnanimity we question not but we shall be able to defend this Empire.

Don Bellianis having heard this, immediately fell on his knees, and notwithstanding all the resistance of the Soudan, kissed his hand, and kneeling embracing him, in most humble manner.

Ah Mighty Sir! What Thanks or Returns am I able to make for this so immense and most desirable Favour? were I possessed of the whole Worlds Empire, I should yet esteem my self too mean a person to enjoy so great a happiness as that of the Person of your most Incomparable Daughter, whose rare Perfections command all the Potentates in the whole World to be at her dispose: And

Sir, assure your self, that for the future it shall be my endeavors to conquer Kingdoms, and vanquish Kings, that I may lay their Crowns at her feet, as a just Tribute to her Vertues.

Having thus spoken, he arose from the ground, and retiring back a few steps, he permitted his Brothers and Companions to go forwards and be received by the Souldan, and then he himself went forwards and kindly saluted the Nobility of Babylon. Thus having done they all remounted their Horses, and in good order marched towards Babylon, but it grew so late that the Souldan resolved not to enter the City that night but to stay at a Palace of his a league from the City: at which place they being arrived, took up their Quarters for that night and prepared for their entrance into the City the next morning; which being come, they all again mounted their horses and set forwards. This day the Prince Don Bellianis and the Souldan rode on together, and then his two Brethren, and so the rest of the Princes and Knights in order: When they came near the City, the Magistrates thereof came and presented themselves in their richest Habiliment, and made a Congratulory Oration to Don Bellianis: and so all the way that they rode he had several Orations and Presents made him; for which he gave them many thanks.

The two Prisoners, the Emperor of Trebizond and the King of Georgia, came in the midst of the Army, being placed in two Chariots with Chains and Fetters of Gold, and a great Guard about them, and thus did arrive at the Palace, where they were met by the Empress and her Ladies. The Princes and Knights soon left their horses, and on foot advanced forwards, where Don Bellianis falling on his knees was kindly and lovingly embraced by the Empress; but when he came before the presence of his Princess he kneeled on the ground, not daring to cast one glance of his eyes upon her divine countenance. She was this day dressed in a Gown of Sky-colour'd Sattin embroidered with Gold, and richly beset with Diamonds and Rubies, representing Stars in the Heavens, but her Face appeared to be more glorious that the Sun when he is in his greatest lustre: her Bosom fitly represented the Milky

Way,

whep, and in all her parts there was so much excellency and divinity, that it dazled the eyes of the Beholders. Our poꝛ Pꝛince was all this while on the ground, not daring either to lookup oꝛ speak: but having her by one of her hands moꝛe white than the dꝛiven Snow, he moꝛt amoꝛouslp kiſſed that, and fetchꝛing manp ſighs, bathed it in tears. She well knowing that he was ſuꝛpꝛized, ſaid to him, What, moꝛt Noble Pꝛince, after having conquered manp enemies, have pou not confidente to beꝛhold a Ladp pour Friend? He then recobering himſelf, and looking on her Face, ſaid: Dear Pꝛinceſs, ſo much tꝛanſcendent light pꝛoceeds from pour divine Countenance, that I am not holp enough to look up, leſt foꝛ mp pꝛeſumption I be ſtꝛuckꝛen blinde. But conſidering with himſelf that he was obſeꝛved bp manp in that paſſion, he again ſaluting her hand aꝛoſe, and making an obepſance paſſed on towaꝛds the Pꝛinceſs Matꝛaꝛoſa, who kindlp receiꝛved him: and ſo the reſt of the Knights hapꝛing peꝛfoꝛmed their duties to the Ladies, he went to his Pꝛinceſs, and ſeeing the Soudan was leading the Empereſs awap, he likewiſe took the Pꝛinceſs bp the hand and went aftꝛer them: after he was come into the great Hall thep diſaꝛmed themſelves, and a coſtlp banquet being pꝛepaꝛed thep all ſate down; which being done, the Soudan did then declare to his Empereſs and Daughter what he had pꝛomiſed to Don Bellianis, wheꝛewith thep were ſo well ſatisfied, that he intended foꝛthwith to have them maꝛꝛied; and theꝛefoꝛe not onelp cauſed all thoſe Pꝛinces that were there pꝛeſent to continue in the Court till the Ceꝛemonp ſhould be peꝛfoꝛmed, but he likewiſe ſent into all the adjacent Countreps to ſummon all the Knights to come at that time, which he intended to be within fouꝛteen dapꝛs.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVI.

How the most Renowned Prince *Don Bellianis* of *Greece*, Son to the Emperor of *Constantinople*, was married to the Princess *Florisbella*, Daughter to the Souldan of *Babylon*; and of the Solemnity of the Wedding, and the Tilts and Tournaments then holden in honor of the same.

GReat was the Preparations that were made for the Solemnity of the Wedding between the Prince of Greece and the fair Princess of Babylon, and many were the great Personages that came to Babylon to assist or attend at that Solemnity. The King and Queen of Antioch, Don Brianel and Aurora, with a Troop of five hundred gallant Knights came thither (as they believed they were by duty bound) to wait upon their Relations: and the King and Queen of Pharez, Don Alfiron and Persiana, with another Troop of five hundred Knights likewise, came at this time to tender their love and service to the most accomplished Don Bellianis, and great was the resort of several other Princes and Knights, Princesses and Ladies from all parts, to see and assist at this great Ceremony, so that not only the City, but all the adjacent Towns were filled with rich Tents, and Companies of Ladies and Knights.

Don Bellianis and his Princess Florisbella spent much of their time in welcoming and treating these persons that came so far to honor them: and the Souldan and his Empress were extream joyful that they had been so fortunate as to match their Daughter to so brave a Prince, and one so well beloved, not questioning but now their Empire would be more flourishing than ever, and they should be out of all fear of the power of any of their Neighboring Enemies.

At length the day so much expected and desired came, when all things being in readiness, those great Personages set forwards to the Temple: The Fair Princess Florisbella was led thither by the two Princes Don Clarineo of Spain, and Don Lucidamore

Lucidamore of Thessaly, both Brothers to Don Bellianis; and he was led thither by the Princess Mattarosa of Numidia, and the fair Princess Cynthia Sister to the Prince of Mesapotamia, the rest of the Princesses and Princes, Ladies and Knights, in great state and very good order attending: Being come to the Temple, and the usual Solemnities performed, they returned back again to the Palace, where a most rich and gallant Dinner was provided. The Tables being furnished with all manner of Delicates which the Luxury of Asia could produce. After Dinner was ended, every one made haste to the place appointed for the Tournament, the Princesses and Ladies seating themselves on a Scaffold erected on one side of the Tiltyard for that purpose, in the middest of which Scaffold was placed two Thrones, on the one was seated the Soudan of Babylon and his Empress, and on the other the Prince Don Bellianis and the Incomparable Florisbella his Wife, and the rest of the Kings and Queens, Princes and Princesses, Knights and Ladies in several places appointed for that purpose. No sooner were they all seated, but silence was commanded, and after the sound of twelve Trumpets, Proclamation was made that all such Knights as were there present, or should during the term of the Tournament arrive, should have free liberty of shewing their utmost endeavours in the Ars of Chivalry both at the Sword and Lance, provided they did conform themselves to such Orders as were appointed, or should be appointed either by the Soudan or Don Bellianis. And it was further proclaimed, that the Tournament should continue for four days.

The first day Contumeliano Prince of Phenicia had leave with fifty Knights to maintain and keep the Field in Honor of the new Married Pair, against all Opponents. The second day was appointed for Peter of Ireland, with the same number of Knights. The third day for Don Lucidamore of Thessaly. And the fourth and last for Don Clarineo of Spain.

Soon after this Proclamation was made, the Prince Contumeliano entred the Field accompanied with fifty Knights, and after he had done his usual Reverence to the Soudan, and the

the reſt, he took a Lance from one of his Attendance and paſſed forwards: But he was no ſooner arrived at the further end of the Field, but he heard a noiſe of Trumpets, and after ſmall attendance he ſaw a Knight compleatly armed in a white Armor, with a Bear painted on his Shield, who being accompanied with a brave Train of Knights entered the Liſts, and having paſſed on to the place where the Souldan and Don Bellianis ſate, and made his Reverence, he advanced forwards to the other end, and there prepared himſelf for a Courſe againſt Don Contumeliano; which Contumeliano ſeeing prepared himſelf to receive him, and ſo accordingly they ran againſt one another with ſuch force, that their Lances flew into the Air all broken into ſhivers without any other diſadvantage, but that of the Knight of the Bear loſing his Stirrops, which he ſoon recovered, and by ſuch time as he came to the end of his Courſe, he had reſetled himſelf on his Horſe in as good a manner as he was at the firſt.

This equality in our Champions raiſed a new vigor in them, and taking freſh Lances they again eſſayed which ſhould have the better: and not onely they themſelves ran the ſecond time, but alſo twenty of each of their Knights; but this Courſe was much to the diſadvantage of the Knight of the Bear and his Companions, for he was thrown out of his Saddle, and with him twelve of his Company, and onely ſix of the Prince Contumeliano's Knights were forced, and himſelf was forced to lay hold on his Horſe neck.

This Courſe raiſed an anger in both the Champions, which made them and their Companions quickly remount their Horſes, and then it was agreed on, that at the third Courſe they and their whole Squadrons, which was eaſily divided into fifty in a Squadron, ſhould again run with their Lances, and after that try their fortunes with their Swords. Which Agreement was quickly put in execution, and they accordingly ran againſt one another with indifferent equality of fortune; for there was about twenty of a party thrown to the ground, but they quickly poſſeſſed themſelves of their Horſes, and remounting drew their Swords, and began a brave Skirmiſh, to

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the great delight of the Beholders, many of them being beaten from their horses by the mighty and puissant strokes which they gave and received each unto other. But there was this Provision made before the Jousts, that none should enter the Fields whose Swords were sharp, but only whose Swords were dull'd on the edge, to the end that none should be killed, and that the Recreation of some might not be the destruction of others; however many of the Knights on both sides were with the violence of the strokes beaten from their horses, and much bruised with the falls, and the trampling of the horses killed some out-right.

Thus this Skirmishing continued the space of four hours, but in the end the Honor of the Day was won by the Prince of Phenicia, the Knight of the Bear by a fall which he had received, being disabled from sitting his horse, and being carried out of the Field by several of his Knights was conveyed to his Lodgings: And then Proclamation was made, That that days Tournament should end, and so they all departed the Field and went to the Pallace, where they were no sooner arrived and seated in their places, but at the sound of Musick many of them began to dance.

In this and such like variety of Recreation they continued for some hours, till it was time for every one to take their rest, and then our pair of Incomparable Lovers retired into their Lodgings, went to Bed and received the Enjoyment which they had so long wished for, and was now accomplished, to the great Joy not only of the two Lovers, but of all their Friends and Relations: In which Content we will leave them till morning, which being come they all arose, and the fair Princess Florisbella by the crimson Dy which appeared in her lovely Cheeks, did well enough express that she had exchanged her Maiden-head for that of a Wife: and the Prince of Greece by his outward gestures did sufficiently testifie the satisfaction of his spirit in the enjoyment of his Incomparable Lady.

Noon being come and Dinner ended, they did all repair again to the place appointed for the Tournament, where the Valiant Peter of Ireland with fifty Knights did bear away the Honor of that Day.

This were three of the four days spent in Justing, Tilting, Tournaments, Skirmishing, and dancing, and all other manner of delightful Exercises: And the fourth day was now come and Dinner being ended, and every one seated in their several places, the Valiant Prince Don Clarineo of Spain (who as you have heard was to maintain the Field for that day) was entred the Lists at the head of fifty valiant Knights, when after the accustomed Civilities done to the Soudan and Ladies, he plated himself ready for the Joust, when presently entred a Knight in black Armor, having the Figure of Envy painted on his Shield. This Knight coming in a time of Mirth in such an unaccustomed manner, caused great Admiration in all the Beholders: but the Actions which he did gave them greater cause of anger, for no sooner had he placed himself at one end of the Lists in the head of all his Knights, but he ran with great violence against the Prince Clarineo, intending to kill him with his Lance, for which purpose his Lance had a long Spike of Steel at the end, and was made of the strongest wood; but he missed of his aim, for he onely ran the Prince through the left arm, and there brake his Lance. All his Companions did run with the like violence, and intended the like mischief, but some of them were thrown from their Horses: but they being thus armed, did much mischief to several of the Princes Knights, killing fifteen out right.

Don Bellianis and his Relations were extreamly angred herewith, who were all unarmed, or at the best had onely blunt Swords according to the Agreement of the Tournament, but extream great was the Cry, Noise, and Confusion of the Princesses and Ladies, fearing lest they should have been all destroied in this unfortunate Skirmish. This raised the anger of our Grecian Prince to such a height, that he was ready even to run amongst the throng, unarmed as he was, when suddenly he saw another Troop of above one hundred and fifty Knights enter the Field, who soon testified to whom they did belong by the Strokes which they gave; for at every stroke blood followed their Swords, so that he soon knew them to be his Enemies: which he seing, and being now so far come to himself as to consider the

the danger, he caused all the Ladies to depart, and he himself with all his Friends, ran hastily to their several Chambers to arm themselves; which they did in the best manner they could, and returning to the Field they found that above five hundred of his Friends and Knights were either slain or wounded. He soon made head against his Enemies, and assaulted them with a great deal of rage and anger, to the great help of his friends, and to the loss and discouragement of his Enemies. Many were on both sides slain by the hands of Don Bellianis and his Enemy, the Knight of Envy, who now met together and began a furious Fight, to the great amazement of all the Beholders. They were both greatly wounded and astonished at each others strength, when in the midst of their fury there appeared over their heads a great Cloud: which breaking there was seen & heard great Thunder and Lightning, which amazed all in the place, and a great Darkness was over all the place for the space of a quarter of an hour: at the end of which there appeared a small Castle in the place of the Combat, and by it lay Don Bellianis along on the earth, and many of his Friends: There also appeared an ancient woman who taking a Bottle, put it to the mouth of Don Bellianis, and some of the Water that was in it passing into his Body he revived and arose, and looking about him saw that which was happned, and saw the old Woman, and knew her to be Bellona the Enchantress, who desired him to go about the Field, and pull off the Helmets from the heads of those Knights that lay there, that she might assist his Friends; which he did accordingly, and there they found his two Brothers Clarineo and Lucidamore, Contumeliano, and Peter of Ireland, with many others much wounded: to whom she gave some of her Water, and they presently arose in very good estate and condition, much wondring at that which had happned. Don Bellianis seeing this, did suppose that all that had happened this day had been done by Enchantment, and therefore he asked Bellona who and what these Enemies were? and whether they were real men, or only Enchantment?

To which she replyed, That in general they were men, and valiant

valiant Knights, as he and his Companions could well enough rectifie, that they were his Enemies, and came to disturb the peace he was in: and that they might not for the future be in a capacity to injure him further, she had provided that Castle which she shewed him, and thereinto she said it was necessary they should be put: in order to which they all went about the Field, and as many of the Knights their Enemies which were about fifty, as they could finde yet alive, were presently put into that Castle.

This being done, Don Bellianis and his Brethren, Friends, and Knights, in the Company of the sage Bellona, set forwards towards the Palace: being met by the Souldan, the Empress, and Princesses. Being all seated, the Sage Bellona spake to them thus:

Most Noble Souldan and Empress, and you other Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses, Knights and Ladies, It is many years since I foreknew the misfortune that would this day happen unto you, and many days and nights have I spent in considering of a way to prevent this mischief, but I could not find a better expedient than what I have now executed. You are all now in good health, and the ill that was intended is now prevented, so that you may assure your selves that you are out of all danger of any present harm. What they are that thus disturbed you, you need not care to know at this time, for they are safe enough from doing you any further mischief; wherefore proceed now in your Mirth, since nothing whatsoever shall be able to disturb you.

She having spoken thus held her peace, and the Souldan and the rest gave great thanks to Bellona for the Service she had done them. Thus Reader we will make an end of this Part of this History, leaving our Princes in great quiet, and in the Third Part we shall tell you who were the Knight of Envy and his Companions, and the cause of their coming at this time; As also an end of the Wars between the two Empires of Trebizond and Babylon, and what became of the two Princes Perianeo and Gramalis of Thrace in the Pleasant Island, and many other pleasant and delightful Adventures.

FINIS